

Republican presidential candidates, from left, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, former New York Gov. George Pataki, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, businessman Donald Trump, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, businesswoman Carly Fiorina, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie take the stage during the CNN Republican presidential debate at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum on Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015, in Simi Valley, Calif.

(AP Photo/Chris Carlson)

SIMI VALLY, California (AP)

— Donald Trump came ready to take on any opponent on the crowded stage in the second Republican debate Wednesday night, firing off in all directions from the start as other candidates tried to puncture his high-flying candidacy. The billionaire businessman and brash front-runner has so far proven untouchable despite a series of remarks that would have undone a more traditional candidate. And he's been unpredictable, as he was in the first moments of the debate: unprompted, Trump declared that fellow 2016 presidential candidate Rand Paul shouldn't even be on the stage.

Standing at center stage, Trump declared that he had a "phenomenal temperament" and a record in business that would help him on the world stage.

Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, the only woman in the Republican field, drew big applause when asked about Trump's earlier denigration of her appearance, about which he later backtracked.

"I think women all over this country heard very clearly what Mr. Trump said," Fiorina said as Trump's face became red.

Trump retorted: "She's got a beautiful face, and she's a beautiful woman."

The unlikely rise and surprising staying power of Trump,

who remains a longshot for the White House and has never held public office, has sidelined all other candidates. Trump is no longer dismissed as a summer fling for frustrated voters, and is increasingly seen as a candidate who could remain atop the field for months and win some early state primaries. Trump's climb to the top of the field has unnerved Republican leaders who fear the former reality TV star's tough talk, especially about women and Hispanic immigrants, is damaging the party's brand and imperiling its chances of winning back the White House after President Barack Obama's eight-year tenure is over.

Trump has so far been immune to criticism for his lack of specific policy proposals, his incendiary rhetoric and his uneven support of conservative principles. The first question of the debate went to Fiorina, who called Trump a "wonderful entertainer" but said all the candidates' characters would be revealed over time and under pressure. Paul, the only candidate to directly challenge Trump in the first debate, said he's worried about having Trump in control of the U.S. nuclear arsenal, citing his "careless language" and attack on people's appearances. There was plenty of back and forth between Trump and Bush, the brother and

son of presidents who had been expected to be a favorite in the race and has now become the real estate mogul's top target. Bush tried to take on Trump directly in the debate's early moments but was repeatedly interrupted by the Republican front-runner. As Bush tried to finish an answer, Trump chimed in: "More energy tonight, I like that." Trump's jab was a reference to his frequent critique that Bush is a "low energy" candidate. Fiorina was the newest addition to the main debate after a standout performance in an undercard event last month.

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Police, migrants clash at Serbian border

DUSAN STOJANOVIC

VANESSA GERA

Associated Press

HORGOS, Serbia (AP) — Baton-wielding Hungarian riot police unleashed tear gas and water cannons against hundreds of migrants Wednesday after they broke through a razor-wire fence and tried to surge into the country from

treatment in Europe," shouted an Iraqi, Amir Hassan, his eyes red from tear gas and his hair and clothing soaked after being hit by blasts of water cannon spray.

"Shame on you, Hungarians," he shouted pointing in the direction of the shielded Hungarian policemen who were firing volleys

acceptable. Referring to Syria, he said: "People facing barrel bombs and brutality in their country will continue to seek life in another." Hungarian authorities insisted they acted legitimately in self-defense, describing the migrants as violent and dangerous.

"We will employ all legal means to protect Hunga-



A migrant picks up shoes, at the "Horgos 2" border crossing into the Hungary, near Horgos, Serbia, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015. Small groups of migrants continued to sneak into Hungary on Wednesday, a day after the country sealed its border with Serbia and began arresting people trying to breach the razor-wire barrier, while a group arrived in Croatia seeking another way into the European Union.

(AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

Serbia. Crying children fled the acrid smoke and dozens of people were injured in the chaos.

With their path blocked, hundreds of other asylum-seekers turned to a longer, more arduous path to Western Europe through Croatia, where officials said 1,300 had arrived in a single day — a number that was sure to grow.

On the sealed border into Hungary, frustrated men — many of them war refugees from Syria and Iraq — hurled rocks and plastic water bottles at the helmeted riot police as they chanted "Open! Open!" in English. Children and women cried as the young men, their faces wrapped in scarves, charged toward the police through thick smoke from tear gas and fires set on fire by the crowd.

"We fled wars and violence and did not expect such brutality and inhumane

of tear gas canisters directly into the crowd.

Around him, women screamed and wailed, covering their faces with scarves as they poured bottled water into their sobbing children's eyes to relieve the stinging. Children gasped from the gas; blood streamed down the face of one man as he ran from the melee, carrying a small child. People fainted from the noxious plumes of tear gas, including one woman who collapsed while holding a baby.

At least two people were seriously injured and 200 to 300 others received medical care for tear gas inhalation and injuries such as cuts, bruises and burns, said Dr. Margit Pajor, who treated people at a medical center in Kanjiza, Serbia.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed "shock" at the behavior of Hungarian police, calling it unac-

ceptable. Referring to Syria, he said: "People facing barrel bombs and brutality in their country will continue to seek life in another." Hungarian authorities insisted they acted legitimately in self-defense, describing the migrants as violent and dangerous.

"We will employ all legal means to protect Hunga-ry's border's security," said Gyorgy Bakondi, homeland security adviser to Prime Minister Viktor Orban. "We will not permit violent, armed, aggressive attackers to enter." The ugly developments in Europe's migrant crisis took place after some of those massed in Serbia broke through a gate. They and hundreds of others had grown desperate after Hungary sealed off its border with Serbia with a razor-wire fence the day before to stop the huge numbers of migrants entering Hungary, which lies on a popular route to Western Europe.

More than 200,000 have entered Hungary this year alone, turning the country into one of the main entry points into Europe for the rising numbers of people fleeing war and persecution in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere. □

First stop for new arrivals in Germany: bureaucracy

FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

PASSAU, Germany (AP) — In the corner of a vast industrial complex above this southeastern German city, Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans and others get their first taste of the country's infamous bureaucracy.

"Saff," "soura," "basamat" — form a line, photo, fingerprint — are among the dozen phonetically-spelled Arabic words scrawled onto a sheet of paper to help German police communicate with the seemingly endless flood of people who pour out of buses at Passau's central registration center.

It is here that they formally declare their intention to seek asylum after days and sometimes weeks trekking through Europe.

The city has been pushed to the forefront of Germany's effort to cope with the tens of thousands hoping to start a better life far from the hardship and dangers of the countries they've left behind.

And the strain of that effort shows on the faces of migrants and German police alike.

New arrivals enter one of two giant halls once used to build specialized trucks. The lingering smell of motor oil barely masks the odor of people who have traveled hundreds of miles without a change of clothes or a chance to wash.

They are greeted by officers wearing surgical gloves and protective vests. Every migrant receives a paper wristband with a number — his or her passport for the next 12 to 24 hours at Danziger Strasse 49.

Next comes a mugshot, followed by a search. Officers are on the lookout for dangerous objects, but also identity papers that might cast doubt on a person's claim to be from Syria, which almost guarantees he or she will get asylum in Germany.

In the coming hours, migrants get time to wash, eat and rest. Many, especially children, need medical care.

"The doctor is pretty busy," said Stephan Wittenzeller, a spokesman for Germany's federal police, which runs the center.

Ali Hisham Abed, a burly 24-year-old, sits with his friends near the center of the room. When asked why he fled his native Iraq, he produces a U.N. refugee card that shows he first sought refuge in Syria, before the war there forced him to move on again. Now he dreams of Sweden, a country where he says he has friends.

If they are lucky, people at the center get called up quickly for a personal interview. But with at least 400 arriving daily since Sunday, some are forced to wait till the next morning to complete their registration.

Mezloum Shiekho from Hasakah, a Kurdish town in Syria, has been at the center for more than 24 hours and is still waiting for his interview. But he has few complaints. "They took care of us," he said in English. "Food, beds, medicine... It was very good."

Shiekho compares it with his reception in Hungary, where he says police mistreated him, and his experience with traffickers, whom he paid 4,000 euros to take him from Turkey to Germany before they abandoned him halfway, in Serbia.

At the interview, migrants are accompanied by an interpreter. They are also fingerprinted. An officer manning an ID machine explains that she takes 640 fingerprints — four each from 160 people — on a busy day's shift.

In an adjacent room, a dozen officers painstakingly type up the information that has been collected on each person. □

Kerry: US weighs Russia offer of military talks on Syria

MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is weighing an offer from Russia to have military-to-military talks and meetings on the situation in Syria amid increasing U.S. concern and uncertainty about Russia's military buildup there, Secretary of State John Kerry said Wednesday.

Kerry said Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had proposed the consultation in a phone call on Tuesday and that the White House, Pentagon and State Department were considering it. Kerry suggested that he favored such an idea, noting that the United States wants a clear picture of what Russia's intentions are in Syria following a recent military buildup there.

Lavrov proposed a "military-to-military conversation and meeting in order to discuss the issue of precisely what will be done to deconflict with respect to any potential risks that might be run and have a complete and clear understanding as to the road ahead and what the intentions are," Kerry told reporters at a joint State Department news conference with South Africa's foreign minister.

"You have a conversation in order to do that," Kerry said. "It is vital to avoid misunderstandings, miscalculations (and) not to put ourselves in a predicament where we are supposing something and the supposition is wrong."

White House spokesman Josh Earnest, without commenting on specific consultations, said the Obama administration "would welcome constructive Russian support for the efforts of the anti-ISIL coalition in Iraq and in Syria."

Kerry said Lavrov had told him that Russia was only interested in confronting the threat posed by the Islamic State group in Syria. But Kerry stressed it remained unclear if that position would change and Russia would mount a defense of Syrian President Bashar Assad who the U.S. be-

lieves must leave power.

"Obviously, there are questions about that," he said. "I am not taking that at face value."

However, he added that if Russia is only focused on the Islamic State group then it remains a potential partner in pushing for a political transition in Syria. "If Russia is only focused only on ISIL and if there is a capacity for cooperation ... there still is a way to get a political negotiation and outcome," he said.

Kerry also said he had spoken on Wednesday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who office announced earlier that he would visit Moscow next week to discuss Syria with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

His comment come as Russia's military buildup in Syria has perplexed the Obama administration and left it in a quandary as to how to respond.

In his call with Lavrov on Tuesday, his third in 10 days, Kerry said he sought clarity about Moscow's moves and warned that Russian support for Assad "risks exacerbating and extending the conflict."

In the afterglow of the Iran nuclear deal, which was hailed by the Obama administration as the kind of diplomacy that can be achieved when Russia and the United States cooperate, U.S. officials had hoped for a change in Russia's position about Syria, potentially even enlisting its support to move Assad out.

Moscow's latest actions, however, have taken many by surprise and further muddled efforts to fight Islamic State militants while trying to promote political transition in Syria.

In recent days Russia has sent about a half-dozen battle tanks and other weaponry — along with military advisers, technicians, security guards and portable housing units — to Syria with the apparent goal of setting up an air base near the coastal town of Latakia, a stronghold of the Syrian president. □



Secretary of State John Kerry is seen in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington. The Obama administration is weighing an offer from Russia to have military-to-military talks and meetings on the situation in Syria amid increasing U.S. concern and uncertainty about Russia's military buildup there, Kerry said Wednesday. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

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Republican Candidates Square Off in 2nd Debate

Continued from front

The race has seen another unlikely surge, as soft-spoken retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson has leapt into second place, according to polls. As Fiorina argued with Trump about who had a better business record, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie broke in to say that Americans really wanted to know what a Republican president would do to improve their lives.

"You're both successful people. Congratulations," Christie said. "The middle class in this country who's getting plowed under by Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, let's start talking about those issues tonight and stop this childish back-and-forth between the two of you."

Both Bush and Walker took early swipes at Trump. Bush said Trump made donations to him the past because he wanted casino gambling approved in Florida when Bush was governor. Trump denied that. Bush has become one of Trump's favorite targets. Generally a low-key, policy-focused candidate, Bush has grown visibility irritated by Trump's jabs. Bush said Trump needed to apologize for bringing his



Republican presidential candidates, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, right, and Donald Trump both speak during the CNN Republican presidential debate at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum on Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015, in Simi Valley, Calif.

(AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill)

wife into a political debate. Bush's wife is an American citizen born in Mexico, and Trump has suggested Bush is too soft toward immigrants because of his marriage.

Trump refused to apologize, said his words have been misconstrued and

stood by his criticism of Bush for answering some questions from reporters in Spanish. He said people in the United States should speak English.

Bush said he shows respect to people who speak both languages. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio jumped in

and said it's important to speak Spanish to communicate with immigrants who may become Republican voters. He recounted stories of his grandfather, a Cuban immigrant whose English was shaky but who idolized Ronald Reagan. Four candidates lagging

behind in national polls did not qualify for the main event and were relegated to an earlier debate: Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and former New York Gov. George Pataki. □

As Republicans debate, Biden knocks climate change doubters



Vice President Joe Biden speaks at the Solar Power International Trade Show in Anaheim, Calif., Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015. Taking aim at his potential political opponents, Biden railed against Republicans who "deny climate change" and want to shut down the federal government over funding for Planned Parenthood, and pleaded with them to "just get out of the way."

(AP Photo/Christine Cotter)

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Vice President Joe Biden on Wednesday took aim at potential 2016 presidential campaign opponents, rallying against Republicans who "deny climate change and pleading with them to "just get out of the way."

Biden came to California, a national leader on clean energy, to tout solar technology and ramp up pressure on the U.S. and other nations as the Obama administration presses for a successful finish to global climate talks.

Yet his visit was infused with 2016 overtones, and he playfully mocked Republicans who reject mainstream climate science that says humans are contributing to warmer tem-

peratures.

"I think if you pushed them, they'd probably deny gravity as well," Biden said. The vice president is deeply immersed in deliberations with his family and advisers about whether to enter the 2016 presidential race. In recent days, Biden has opened a window into those deliberations, describing his lingering doubts about whether he has the emotional strength to mount a viable campaign just months after his son, Beau, died from brain cancer.

The California swing brought Biden to the same corner of the state as the pack of Republican presidential candidates, who descended on the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

for their second televised debate on Wednesday night. Addressing a solar power summit in Anaheim, Biden offered a prediction that viewers would hear more skepticism about climate change from the pack of Republican candidates participating in the debate.

As he considers a late entrance into the 2016 presidential race, Biden has started to speak out more directly against the Republican candidates he would face if he won his party's nomination.

Addressing Hispanics at a reception on Tuesday night, he lashed out at Republican front-runner Donald Trump and said his "sick" message of xenophobia "will not prevail." □

Obama calls on business leaders to apply budget pressure

KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama urged Congress on Wednesday to avoid another contentious budget showdown and warned that the U.S. economy would surely take a hit if the government shuts down again. Obama blamed Republicans for the shutdown two years ago and made clear he would do so again if it comes to that.

"You'll recall two years ago Republicans shut down the government because they didn't like Obamacare. Today, some are suggesting the government should be shut down because they don't like Planned Parenthood," Obama said. "That's not good sense, and it's not good business."

A partial shutdown will occur Oct. 1 unless lawmakers provide money to keep the federal government functioning. The Republican-led Congress must overcome opposition from some conservatives who want to block federal funding for Planned



President Barack Obama speaks to business leaders at the quarterly meeting of the Business Roundtable in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015, to renew his calls for increased spending in infrastructure, education and scientific research. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

Parenthood, a nonprofit organization that provides reproductive health and other services for women, and take other steps, to reach a deal.

Obama used his speech to members of the Business Roundtable to turn up the pressure on lawmakers to reach a budget agreement. He also pointed to a

potential revenue source to pay for some of the increased investments he wants in infrastructure, education and scientific research — taxing so-called "carried interest" as ordinary income rather than as a capital gain, which is taxed at a lower rate. The proposed change is aimed primarily at managers of

some types of private investment funds who pay a lower tax rate on their income than do many individuals. He noted, without naming them, that some Republican presidential candidates, primarily Donald Trump and Jeb Bush, have voiced support for increasing taxes on carried interest.

"If we close the tax loop-hole, we could double the number of workers in America's job-training programs, we could help another 4 million more students afford college," Obama said.

This approach "is an example of how we can maintain fiscal responsibility while at the same time making the investments that we need to grow," he later added.

Obama also tried to portray an improving economy that has come a long way while he's been in office. He said it's doing better than those countries who have embraced spending cuts to climb their way out of tough economic times and that "perennial gloom and doom" descriptions are perpetuated by the presidential campaign that will determine his successor.

"America's winning right now. America's great right now. We can do even better," Obama said.

The Business Roundtable is made up of chief executives from large corporations. □

Obama, Netanyahu to meet after months of cooling ties

NANCY BENAC

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, after months of chilly relations, will meet at the White House on Nov. 9 to talk about the Iran nuclear deal that Israel's government has harshly criticized and tried without success to block.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said the leaders also would discuss efforts to counter the Islamic State group's activities in the Middle East. He called the meeting a demonstration "of the deep and enduring bonds between the United States and Israel as well as our unprecedented cooperation to further enhance Israel's security."

It will be the first formal meeting between Obama and Netanyahu in months. Obama pointedly refused

to see Netanyahu in March when the Israeli leader appeared before a joint meeting of Congress and harshly criticized the U.S.-negotiated nuclear deal with Iran, Israel's enemy. U.S. lawmakers had arranged Netanyahu's appearance without White House input.

Congressional Republicans have failed to block the deal from going forward. The international accord backed by the United States, Iran and five world powers would curb Iran's nuclear program in exchange for relief from sanctions that have undercut Tehran's economy.

The United States has committed to provide more than \$7.18 billion in security aid to Israel over the next year, and officials have floated the possibility of signing a new 10-year agreement about U.S.-Israeli security cooperation. □



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Texas Muslim teen held over homemade clock



Irving MacArthur High School student Ahmed Mohamed, 14, poses for a photo at his home in Irving, Texas. Mohamed was arrested and interrogated by Irving Police officers on Monday after bringing a homemade clock to school. Police don't believe the device is dangerous, but say it could be mistaken for a fake explosive. He was suspended from school for three days, but he has not been charged.
(Vernon Bryant/The Dallas Morning News via AP)

DAVID WARREN
Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A 14-year-old Muslim boy became a sensation on social media Wednesday after word spread that he had been placed in handcuffs and suspended for coming to school with a home-

made clock that teachers thought resembled a bomb. Police declined to seek any charges against Ahmed Mohamed, but that did little to tamp down criticism of how authorities handled the matter. Mohamed was pulled from

class Monday and taken to a detention center after showing the digital clock to teachers at his suburban Dallas high school. Irving Police Chief Larry Boyd said the clock looked "suspicious in nature," but there was no evidence the boy meant to cause alarm

at MacArthur High School. Boyd considers the case closed.

In a matter of hours, the clock made Ahmed a star on social media, with the hashtag #IStandWith-Ahmed tweeted nearly 600,000 times by Wednesday afternoon.

In a tweet, President Barack Obama called Ahmed's clock "cool" and said more kids should be inspired like him to enjoy science, because "it's what makes America great."

Groups including the American Civil Liberties Union rights group condemned what they called heavy-handed tactics by school officials and police.

"Instead of encouraging his curiosity, intellect and ability, the Irving (school district) saw fit to throw handcuffs on a frightened 14-year-old Muslim boy wearing a NASA T-shirt and then remove him from school," Terri Burke, executive director of the ACLU in Texas, said in a statement. The White House also weighed in. □

Colorado braces for day of tax-free marijuana sales

KRISTEN WYATT
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — An accounting error in Colorado is paying off for marijuana consumers Wednesday, when a quirk in a state tax law prompts the state to suspend most taxes on recreational pot.

The one-day pot tax holiday means Colorado won't collect 10 percent sales taxes on pot. The state is also suspending a 15 percent excise tax on marijuana growers.

The tax break is happening because Colorado underestimated overall state tax collections last year. Under the state constitution, the accounting error triggers an automatic suspension of any new taxes — in this case, the recreational marijuana taxes voters approved in 2013.

Retailers are hoping for big crowds, rolling out bargains to attract shoppers. The state had no estimate on how many shoppers might turn out.

The taxes revert to 25 percent on Thursday.

Wednesday's break comes a day after Colorado made final its accounts for the fiscal year that ended in June. The final tax numbers covered the first full fiscal year in which adults over 21 could legally buy both marijuana and alcohol. Alcohol excise tax collections were up 2.4 percent, to about \$42 million. Marijuana-specific taxes came in at about \$70 million. The figures don't include a statewide 2.9 percent sales taxes. In other words, alcohol likely still produces more overall tax money than pot, though the state doesn't keep data on how much general sales tax comes from alcohol. □

Oklahoma:

Court halts execution of man who claims innocence

SEAN MURPHY
Associated Press

McALESTER, Oklahoma (AP) — An appeals court halted the execution of an Oklahoma man with just hours to spare Wednesday after his attorneys said they had uncovered new evidence, including a fellow inmate's claim that he overheard another man convicted in the case admit he acted alone. Richard Eugene Glossip was twice convicted of ordering the killing of Barry Van Treese, who owned

the Oklahoma City motel where Glossip worked. Motel handyman Justin Sneed admitted robbing and beating Van Treese with a baseball bat, but said he did so only after Glossip promised to pay him \$10,000. Prosecutors alleged Glossip was afraid Van Treese was about to fire him for embezzling money and poorly managing the motel. Glossip, 52, was scheduled to be executed at 3 p.m. Wednesday, but the Oklahoma Court of Crimi-

nal Appeals agreed to reschedule the lethal injection for Sept. 30. Glossip's lawyers said they obtained a signed affidavit from another inmate, Michael Scott, who claims he heard Sneed say "he set Richard Glossip up, and that Richard Glossip didn't do anything."

His attorneys also argued that Glossip's trial attorneys didn't present enough evidence to discredit Sneed, who was sentenced to life in prison and testified against Glossip. They pre-

sented an affidavit from an admitted methamphetamine dealer who said he frequently saw Sneed use the drug and trade stolen items for it.

The court said it granted the last-minute request "in order for this court to give fair consideration" to Glossip's new claims.

Glossip attorney Don Knight said he was inside the prison speaking to Glossip when a prison official informed them the execution had been stayed. □

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US Financial Front:

American consumer prices fell 0.1 percent in August



Boston University student Ashley Babula, left, shops for back-to-school items with her mother, Mary, at the CityTarget store in Boston. The Labor Department reported on consumer prices for August on Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015.

(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumer prices edged down in August, marking the first decline in seven months and fueled by a big drop in gasoline prices. The Labor Department said Wednesday its consumer price index slipped 0.1 per-

cent in August after a small 0.1 percent rise in July. Gas prices, which had been rising for three months, dropped 4.1 percent amid the recent fall in global oil prices.

The report comes as the Federal Reserve begins two days of meetings to decide whether it will raise interest

rates for the first time in nine years. It watches consumer prices closely, and the latest figures may add fuel to arguments that inflation isn't strong enough yet.

Economists said Fed policymakers were caught between evidence of a strengthening economy and persistently low infla-

tion.

"Despite many signs of stronger growth — jobs, retail sales, auto sales, home sales — there is very mild inflation pressure," said Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets. "This is a tough call for the Fed."

Steve Murphy, an economist at Capital Economics, said the August report did not change his view that the forces dragging inflation lower are only temporary. "The deflationary pressure from low energy prices and a strong dollar will begin to fade next year," he said.

"Together with the fact that the economy is already very close to full employment, this suggests that both wages and core inflation will surprise on the upside next year."

Food prices were up 0.2 percent last month, led by another surge in egg prices.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile energy and food costs, rose a modest 0.1 percent in August, indicating cost pressures remain a no-show in the

economy. Over the past 12 months, overall prices are up just 0.2 percent, while core inflation is up a modest 1.8 percent.

A key inflation gauge that the Fed monitors is up just 1.2 percent excluding food and energy over the 12 months ending in July, marking more than three years that inflation in this index has been running below the Fed's 2 percent target for inflation.

Economists were evenly split on a Fed move. Many believe the central bank will start pushing rates higher given that unemployment has dropped to a seven-year low of 5.1 percent, within the Fed's target range for full employment. But other analysts argue that the Fed will wait to see how much impact recent events such as a slowdown in China and financial market turbulence will have on the U.S. economy.

These analysts argue that with inflation so far below the Fed's target and moving lower due to a strong dollar and falling oil prices, it is in no hurry to raise rates. □

US homebuilder sentiment hits highest level since Oct. 2005

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

U.S. homebuilders are feeling slightly more optimistic about the housing market, nudging their confidence this month to a level not seen since the high-flying days of the housing boom nearly 10 years ago.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index released Wednesday rose this month to 62, up from 61 in August. The last time the reading was higher was October 2005 at 68.

Readings above 50 indicate more builders view sales conditions as good, rather than poor. The index has been consistently above 50 since July last year, reflecting a gradual rebound in sales of new homes.

A measure of current sales conditions and builders' view of traffic by prospective buyers rose this month. But builders' outlook for sales over the next six months declined slightly.

Sales of new homes jumped 21.2 percent through the

first half of 2015, backed by relatively low mortgage rates and solid job growth over the past two years. Employers added 3.1 million jobs last year and are on pace to add 2.5 million jobs this year. Meanwhile, unemployment has fallen to a seven-year low of 5.1 percent.

Those factors have helped Americans feel more confident about their economic prospects, causing them to return to the housing market that initially sparked the Great Recession in late

2007. But supplies of new and previously occupied homes have been tight, pushing up prices and limiting choices for would-be buyers.

The latest builder index is consistent with the NAHB's forecast for the U.S. housing market to recover at a steady, modest pace this year. The trade association projects that builders will break ground on about 1.1 million homes this year. Total housing starts have risen 11.3 percent in the first seven months of this year and

were running at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.21 million homes in July, according to the Commerce Department.

This month's builder index was based on 306 respondents.

Builders' view of current sales conditions for single-family homes rose one point to 67, the highest reading since November 2005. A measure of traffic by prospective buyers also improved this month, rising two points to 47. That's the highest level in a year. □

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Labour leader Corbyn seeks to bring new tone to Parliament

GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — On his first appearance at the dispatch box, Jeremy Corbyn, the new leader of Britain's Labour Party, made good on his promise to introduce a more measured tone to the usually raucous "prime minister's question time."

Facing off against Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron on Wednesday, Corbyn asked a series of questions in a quiet and calm manner that invited a measured response, not a cutting one-line riposte. It certainly made a change for one of the most recognizable features of British democracy, which has over the decades been nothing more than a shouting match between the prime minister and the leader of the opposition.

Corbyn's first PMQs — as it's often referred to — comes just four days after his resounding victory in the Labour Party leadership contest. Corbyn's victory owed much to his support among the party's membership and in the unions — not among the party's lawmakers themselves.

"Many told me that they thought PMQs was too theatrical, that Parliament was out of touch and too theatrical and they want-

ed things done differently," Corbyn said in comments that precurred his questions.

vate landlords and the quality of mental health care offered Britons.

The 66-year-old left-winger

As well as presenting a change in style, Corbyn is staunchly rejecting the government's austerity

Save the Queen" at a memorial event honoring World War II fighter pilots. In the past, Corbyn has spoken of his desire to turn Britain into a republic.

Corbyn's insistence that he stood in respectful silence didn't cut it with a large swathe of Britain's tabloid newspapers which accused him of insulting 89-year-old Queen Elizabeth II.

Corbyn sowed confusion Wednesday when he refused to say explicitly during a Sky TV interview that he would sing the anthem at future events, saying only that he would participate fully.

A party spokesman sought to douse that fire, saying that Corbyn had meant to say he would sing the anthem in future.

Corbyn also doesn't dress like most male politicians: He wore dark slacks and a tan sports coat and tie for PMQs, eschewing the blue business suit and brightly colored tie that have become the unofficial dress code for many British politicians gearing up for TV.

Cameron congratulated Corbyn on winning his party's leadership contest and said he would be delighted if their weekly encounter in the House of Commons became a more serious forum for posing and answering questions.

But old habits die hard: A question posed by a member of the Scottish National Party quickly turned into a familiar mudslinging match.

And talk turned, perhaps inevitably, to less weighty matters when Cameron, in response to questioning about a tiger, said that a rhino in a wildlife park in his constituency had been named after his daughter Nancy. □



The leader of Britain's opposition Labour party Jeremy Corbyn speaks during Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons, London, Wednesday Sept. 16, 2015. The "prime minister's questions" session will give many Britons their first extended look at the veteran left-winger who became the Labour Party leader Saturday after a months-long campaign.

(PA via AP)

The questions also marked a distinct change — for the first time ever they had been "crowd-sourced" from the public. They included queries about the chronic lack of affordable housing, the "extortionate" rent charged by some pri-

represents a sharp break with Labour's move to the center ground of British politics over the past three decades — a strategy that many credit for the party's three straight election victories under Tony Blair from 1997.

prescription for the British economy, which he slams as unfair and counterproductive.

His first few days as leader have not been smooth, most notably on Tuesday when he declined to sing the national anthem "God

Spurred by IS plans in Syria, France to strike soon

PARIS (AP) — The Islamic State group is training extremists in Syria to attack in Europe, France's defense minister said Wednesday, announcing that French airstrikes would begin within weeks.

Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said French jets would start bombing "as soon as we have well-iden-

tified targets."

Britain has defended its drone strike on a car in the Islamic State stronghold of Raqqa on Aug. 21, saying the target was planning imminent attacks in the U.K. Three IS fighters were killed, including two British citizens. Previously Britain, like France, had sent bombers only to Iraq, in

part because of fears of strengthening Syrian President Bashar Assad. French opposition conservative lawmakers argued in Parliament this week against expanding the airstrikes to Syria, saying it wouldn't change much on the ground. Le Drian said the French position changed because of a growing IS

presence in Syria in recent months. "On Syrian territory, there are people being trained whose mission is not to strike in Syria but to strike in Europe, and notably in France," Le Drian told France-Inter radio. France's president has said growing concern about refugees also played a role. □

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Assad says his priority is 'defeating terrorism' in Syria

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian President Bashar Assad said in an interview aired Wednesday that his priority is "defeating terrorism" in Syria and urged all political and armed factions in the country to unite in the fight against terrorist groups. In an interview with Russian media, Assad also said there can be no political solution for his country's crisis until terrorism is defeated. He singled out the Islamic State group, which has captured about a third of Syrian territory along with large swaths of land in neighboring Iraq, as well as al-Qaida's branch in Syria, the Nusra Front, and "some others," without specifying. The government in Damascus has long labelled all armed groups fighting Assad's forces as "terrorists." Assad made no reference to the extreme violence his forces have used on civilian areas during the country's civil war, now in

its fifth year, repeating only that some mistakes have been made. Moscow has been a staunch supporter of Assad throughout the crisis. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said it is impossible to defeat the Islamic State group without cooperating with Damascus. He has urged other nations to follow Russia's example and offer military support to Assad's government. In recent days, Moscow has sent about a half-dozen battle tanks and other weaponry — along with military advisers, technicians, security guards and portable housing units — to Syria with the apparent goal of setting up an air base near the coastal town of Latakia, an Assad stronghold. U.S. officials have said Moscow is simply trying to prop up Assad and have rejected his participation in the global war on the Islamic State group, also known by its acronyms ISIL or ISIS.



Syrian President Bashar Assad speaks during an interview in Damascus, Syria. Speaking in an interview with Russian media, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2015, Assad said the refugee crisis now hitting Europe is a direct result of the West's support of "terrorists" in Syria. (AP Photo/SANA)

"Nothing's changed about the fact that we don't want to see the Assad regime getting any support," State Department spokesman John Kirby said. "There can't be a role (for) the Assad regime in efforts

to stabilize the situation in Syria, much less go against ISIL." In the interview, Assad did not directly address the Russian moves, only praising Moscow as an "independent state" and

an "impartial" broker of dialogue between Syrian groups. He urged the formation of a united front against the Islamic State group, saying the priority of every single Syrian citizen is to be secure. □

Lebanon police clash with protesters again over trash crisis

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanese police beat back protesters with clubs and sticks and arrested dozens of people in downtown Beirut on Wednesday as a second session of dialogue among politicians got underway, the latest confrontations this city has seen over the country's summer trash crisis. The small group of activists had gathered near the parliament building, where the meeting was taking place. Some of the pro-

testers had brought eggs to pelt politicians' convoys while others tried to block the street. Baton-wielding riot police soon clashed with the protesters, at one point dragging two of them on the ground and violently beating both. Some protesters shouted at the police: "Shabiha," Arabic for thugs. Ambulances rushed to the scene and took the wounded away. The main group behind the protests, "You Stink," said 40 people were arrested. By evening, dozens gath-

ered outside government offices, demanding the release of those detained and chanting against the government. "We, the people, are the red line," they shouted. Some threw trash-filled bags at the barbed wire that has been erected around the offices, while others burned trash in protest. Later, the official National News Agency said the prosecutors ordered the release of all those detained. But the protesters remained in Beirut's Riad

el-Solh Square, which has become the epicenter in the standoff between the government and the protesters. "We will stay here until the last detainee is released," said Arabi al-Andari, who was released and came to join the protesters again. A crisis over uncollected trash in the Lebanese capital has ignited the largest protests in the country in years and has emerged as a festering symbol of the government's paralysis and failure to provide basic services.

Heaps of garbage accumulated in Beirut's streets after authorities closed the capital's main landfill on July 17 and failed to provide an alternative. The protests quickly moved beyond just the trash in the streets to target an entire political class that has dominated the country and undermined its growth since the civil war ended in 1990. Lebanon has a sectarian power-sharing system that often leads to incessant bickering and cronyism among the country's politicians. □

North Korea gears up for major fete for ruling party

ERIC TALMADGE

Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — China just put on a big military parade,

with a rocket launch? A nuclear test? Or both?

North Korea is already in high gear as it prepares to mark the 70th anniversary

To pretty up the capital, Pyongyang now even has bicycle lanes.

What exactly is in store for the Oct. 10 anniversary re-

fireworks might not happen in Pyongyang at all.

On Monday, the head of North Korea's space agency said the country has the right to launch rockets any time it sees fit and suggested Pyongyang is preparing to put its second satellite into orbit. He didn't explicitly state a launch was in the works, and open-source satellite imagery doesn't show a rocket is being readied. But a new space mission would have great domestic propaganda value, and many North Korea watchers have been expecting one around the time of the anniversary.

The North claims its rockets are meant for scientific purposes. Washington, Seoul and their allies believe they are used as a pretext for testing long-range missile technology, which it is banned from doing under U.N. sanctions.

The rocket remarks were followed Tuesday by a senior nuclear official's claim that the North has "rearranged, changed or readjusted" the plutonium and highly enriched uranium facilities at its main Nyongbyon nuclear complex. He said it has started normal operations and scientists have improved the capabilities of the country's nuclear weapons "in quality and quantity." □



North Koreans gather in to prepare for events to be held during the 70th anniversary of the founding of their country's ruling party in October, in Pyongyang, North Korea. Students and workers are being mobilized by the thousands to practice their parts in the grand show - some carrying wooden torches, others bouquets of red plastic flowers.

(AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

a few months after Russia did the same. But there's no country more adept at putting on elaborate, massive displays of state power than North Korea, the undisputed goose-stepping capital of the world, and next month, Pyongyang will stage what is likely to be its biggest celebration in years.

Question is: Will it come

sary of the founding of its ruling party. Students and workers are being mobilized by the thousands to practice their parts in the grand show — some carrying wooden torches, others bouquets of red plastic flowers. Shock brigades of soldier-builders are toiling around the clock to paint bridges, build stages and finish high-rise apartments.

mains a mystery. The government has been typically mum on its plans, though a military parade and appearance by leader Kim Jong Un would seem to be pretty safe bets.

Adding to the buzz, senior officials speaking in interviews with the North's state-run media over the past few days have dropped hints that the real

India:

Hospitals warned not to turn away dengue patients

NIRMALA GEORGE

Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — As India's capital struggles with its worst outbreak of dengue fever in five years, officials threatened Wednesday to cancel private hospitals' licenses if they turn away patients.

More than 11 people have died from the mosquito-borne disease in New Delhi this year and about 1,900 cases have been recorded at city hospitals.

The families of two young boys said they succumbed after being repeatedly denied treatment. The parents of one of the boys — an only child — reportedly

killed themselves when he passed away after being rejected at five hospitals.

"No patient arriving at a hospital with dengue should be turned away," Health Minister Satyendra Jain told reporters.

He said he has ordered private hospitals in the capital to hire more doctors and increase the number of beds available for dengue patients. Hospitals have reported a shortage of beds and staff as they try to cope with the throngs of patients.

Dengue's symptoms include severe muscle and joint pain, high fever and rash. Its most acute forms

can cause internal bleeding and death.

In many state-run hospitals, two patients were sharing each bed.

"There are 20,000 beds available. And we will increase the number of hospital beds by another 1,000 by this weekend," Jain said.

The health minister tried to calm people's fears that the outbreak was spreading rapidly, with more than 600 cases reported last week alone.

"It is not an epidemic. But people are panicking," Jain said.

Jain and New Delhi's top elected official, Chief Min-

ister Arvind Kejriwal, have made "surprise" visits of government and private hospitals to check on their preparedness to deal with the outbreak.

State-run hospitals have canceled vacations for doctors and ordered them back to work.

The city government has also ordered laboratories to cap the cost of dengue fever tests at 600 rupees (\$10) to prevent them from charging exorbitant fees. Jain also advised people with milder forms of dengue to consult doctors, but to stay at home instead of adding to the burden of overstretched hospitals. □

Japan's ruling bloc to vote on military bills amid protests

MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Opposition lawmakers and thousands of demonstrators staged last-ditch protests in a political showdown Wednesday as Japan's ruling party began a final push to pass security legislation to expand the role of the country's military.

The bills would allow the military to defend Japan's allies even when the country isn't under attack, work more closely with the U.S. and other allies, and do more in international peacekeeping.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe says Japan needs the bills to bolster its defense amid China's growing assertiveness and to share the global peacekeeping effort. Opponents say the legislation violates Japan's war-renouncing constitution, while putting Japan at risk of being embroiled in U.S.-led wars.

Opposition lawmakers staged delaying attempts, including preventing colleagues from entering an upper house committee chamber, saying more discussion is needed before a vote is held. Opposition lawmakers filled the hallway outside the room, blocking the chairman and holding up a preliminary question-and-answer session for hours. They planned to propose a series of no-confidence votes against Abe's Cabinet and its key members — a process likely to take more than half a day — before a house vote, expected Thursday.

They were backed up by thousands of protesters who gathered outside the parliament building.

The protesters shouted "Scrap the bills right now" and "No to war bills," while flashing placards with anti-Abe and anti-war messages.

While the bills were being debated in parliament, new faces were joining the ranks of protesters typically made up of labor union members and graying left-wing activists. □



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Venezuela extends border crackdown to 3rd state

FABIOLA SANCHEZ

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— President Nicolas Maduro has closed another bridge connecting Venezuela with Colombia as he extends a month-long crackdown on smuggling along the border that has fueled tensions between

the two neighbors.

Maduro late Tuesday night said that a state of emergency had been broadened to encompass 10 more municipalities on Venezuela's western edge, including a few in the state of Apure, the third district to face such restrictions.

While Maduro didn't spe-

cifically say he was closing any border crossings, authorities in Colombia said Wednesday that Venezuelan security forces had set up a barricade preventing cars from crossing the Jose Antonio Paez bridge that connects the provincial capital of Arauca with the plains of Apure.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos reacted angrily Wednesday to Maduro's latest move. Colombia's government has protested the treatment of some 1,500 of its nationals deported under the crackdown.

Another 16,000 of the over 5 million Colombians living

in Venezuela have returned voluntarily, saying they fear reprisals.

While Maduro and Santos have both called for direct dialogue to reduce tensions, an attempt by South American neighbors to mediate a solution has so far failed to bring the two leaders together. □

'Pope Plan' transforms Havana, Cuban city known for decay

A. GARCIA

M. WEISSENSTEIN

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP)

— Windows looking out on the Church of the Sacred Heart were covered with tattered newspapers. Wheel-swallowing potholes pitted the streets. Paint peeled off the walls in sheets.

Then the pope said he was coming to town.

Crews of workmen showed up as if from nowhere this summer, smoothing streets, patching walls and painting facades in pastel shades of pink, blue and green. Across Havana, hundreds more laborers planted palm trees, cleaned up trash and repaved sidewalks. As Pope Francis' Saturday arrival nears, a whirlwind of renewal has hit a city known for its decay, leaving ordinary people appreciative of the repairs but indignant that the government unleashes the forces of reno-

vation only when a pope is about to place Cuba in the international spotlight.

"At least we're getting some benefit from the pope's visit, although it's a shame that things only get fixed on special occasions," said Carmen Silvano, a student who lives in the central Havana neighborhood near the church that serves as headquarters of Cuba's Jesuits.

State media have said next to nothing about the repairs and renovation, but Cubans have sardonically branded it "Plan Papa," or "The Pope Plan." Havana residents say similar flurries of renovation preceded Pope John Paul II's groundbreaking 1998 visit and Benedict XVI's trip in 2012 but things quickly fell back into disrepair.

Thanks to reforms put in place by President Raul Castro, Cuban single-family homes are being redone at unprecedented rates, par-



Workers apply a fresh coat of paint to the walls surrounding the archdiocese residence, in preparation for the visit of Pope Francis, in Havana, Cuba, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2015. Francis will visit Cuba from Sept. 19-22, before arriving in the United States, making him the third pontiff to visit the island nation.

(AP Photo/Desmond Boylan)

ticularly in Havana, where people have greater access to foreign capital and building supplies. Meanwhile, the communist government remains responsible for the communal areas of apartment buildings and old mansions roughly divided among more than a dozen families in some

cases, meaning problems as simple as a blown light-bulb can go unfixed for months or years.

Dayron Rivero, a social worker and self-employed barber, said the government had promised to repair the neighborhood around the church for years but no work was ever

done, supposedly because of a lack of supplies.

"They announced the pope's visit, the materials appeared and they put the pedal to the metal to finish all the repair work," he said. His building still needs to have floors redone and windows repaired, among other projects.

"Inside, the ceilings are in bad shape, but at least they gave it a coat of paint and it looks better," he said. A short drive away in the Playa neighborhood around the Apostolic Nunciature, where the pope will stay during his time in Havana, tooth-rattling gullies and holes in the streets have been filled in, buildings have been painted gleaming white and yellow and piles of debris have been cleared from the streets. Yet, just a block from the Nunciature, streets are still rutted, debris is uncleared and facades are fading and unpainted. □

Puerto Rico to improve sewage system, reduce pollution

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico

(AP)

— Puerto Rico's water and sewer company has agreed to invest \$1.5 billion to upgrade its system as part of a settlement with the U.S. government to help cut down on water pollution, officials said this week.

The U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency said the federal government waived civil penalties in the case given Puerto Rico's economic crisis. The island's Aqueduct and Sewer Authority had been accused of releasing untreated sewage and other pollutants in the San Juan Bay, the Condado Lagoon and the At-

lantic Ocean, among other places.

"This agreement will reduce the massive amount of untreated sewage and other pollutants that harm major waterways in the San Juan area, improving water quality and public health conditions for thousands of people," Judith Enck, an

EPA regional administrator, said in a statement.

The company also agreed to invest \$120 million to build sanitary sewers for an impoverished community in the capital of San Juan that is expected to help some 20,000 people as part of a deal that also involved the U.S. Department of

Justice. The agreement replaces three previous ones between the Aqueduct and Sewer Authority and the U.S. government. Officials noted that previous projects under prior deals are no longer necessary given the island's drop in population as people flee to the U.S. mainland. □

Eurozone inflation revised down to 0.1 percent

PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Inflation across the 19-country eurozone was revised down to 0.1 percent in the year to August, in a development that's likely to renew concern that the region could see another bout of falling prices and prompt more stimulus measures from the European Central Bank. Figures released Wednesday by the European Union's statistics agency showed that the revision in consumer price inflation from the initial estimate of 0.2 percent was largely due to a sharp drop in energy prices reflecting weakness in the global price of oil. Given that inflation is way below the ECB's target of just under 2 percent and is widely expected to fall further in coming months, there are growing expectations the central bank will increase its stimulus efforts — especially if the eurozone sees an outright fall in prices for the first time since March.

At first glance, deflation, which is generally defined as a sustained drop in prices, sounds good as it allows consumers to buy things for less. The problem lies when prices fall consistently over time for a range of goods — as opposed to temporary declines prompted by, say, a fall in prices at the pump, which can give

economic activity a boost. Longer-term deflation encourages people to put off spending and can prove difficult to reverse because it requires altering people's expectations. It can lead to years of economic stag-

As part of that stimulus, the ECB is pumping 60 billion euros a month in newly printed money into the eurozone economy by buying government and corporate bonds. The program is slated to run at least through

The news from Eurostat prompted some weakness in the euro as traders priced in a growing expectation of further stimulus — the new money created by the ECB can weigh on the currency by diluting its



People walk past a shop called: 'Cheap City', selling discounted merchandise in central Athens. Inflation across the 19-country eurozone was revised down to 0.1 percent in the year to August, in a development that's likely to renew concern that the region could see another bout of falling prices and prompt more stimulus measures from the European Central Bank.

(AP Photo/Lefferis Pitarakis)

nation, as in Japan over the past two decades, or at worst, into something more pernicious, such as the Great Depression of the 1930s.

It's those fears that prompted the ECB to launch a 1.1 trillion-euro (\$1.2 trillion) monetary stimulus this year.

September 2016 and is intended to help get inflation back to target. ECB President Mario Draghi hinted this month that the bank is ready to give the eurozone a bigger dose of stimulus, which could involve buying more bonds or extending the length of the program.

value. The euro was trading 0.4 percent lower at \$1.1230.

"The chance of further stimulus from the ECB is growing, which could act to weaken the euro in the coming months," said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at OANDA. □

Brazil industry group: millions will lose jobs

SAO PAULO (AP) — Millions of workers will lose their jobs this year because of the recession that has hit Latin America's biggest nation, a Brazilian industry federation said Wednesday.

The Rio de Janeiro State Federation of Industries Wednesday said a job market analysis it recently conducted shows that between 1.2 million and 1.6 million jobs will be lost in 2015 — the worst contraction in 17 years.

Previously, the worst figures had been registered in 1998 when Brazil lost nearly 580,000 formal jobs.

"We don't see any signs of improvement in the short term," federation economist Marcelo de Avila told the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper. The government's Institute for Applied Economic Research said earlier this month that more 1 million formally registered workers could lose their jobs by year's end.

In late August, the government statistics bureau IBGE said Brazil's gross domestic product contracted for the second consecutive quarter, sending the Brazilian economy into a technical recession.

The bureau said the economy shrank 1.9 percent in the second quarter compared with the previous three months. Gross domestic product in the first quarter contracted 0.7 percent.

Brazil's economy has been hit by a drop in international commodity prices, sluggish global economic growth, rising inflation and high interest rates.

"We calculate that between 1.5 million and 2 million workers in the formal and informal job markets will lose their jobs because of recession," economist Gesner Oliveira, president of Sao Paulo consulting firm GO Associados said in a Wednesday email.

"Given that the economy is not expected to resume growing until 2017, the job market will continue to weaken next year," he said. □

Metro Manila traffic costing Philippines \$64M a day

TERESA CEROJANO

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Metropolitan Manila's notorious traffic jams are costing the Philippine economy at least 3 billion pesos (\$64 million) a day and infrastructure projects need to be fast-tracked to address the problem, the country's chief economic planner said Wednesday.

A study in 2012 by the Japan International Cooperation Agency found that time lost by people stuck in traffic and the extra cost of operating vehicles in gridlock in metropolitan Manila and nearby areas amount-

ed to 2.4 billion pesos (\$51 million) a day, Economic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said. With a bigger population today and more vehicles on the roads, and taking into consideration other costs including to the health of commuters, Balisacan said 3 billion pesos is a conservative estimate. The cost over a year is 0.8 percent of gross domestic product. Government infrastructure spending has been delayed, with agencies underspending due to difficulty in complying fast enough with new requirements to make public funding more transparent and

corruption-free. Some of the big ticket projects under the public-private partnership program have also encountered bidding problems. "It makes sense really to fast-track the completion of all these infrastructure projects because the costs are immense even from a strictly economic point of view," he told a foreign correspondents' forum.

The government aims to spend at least 5 percent of GDP on infrastructure by next year. Delays in infrastructure and disaster reconstruction projects, and natural hazards such as typhoons and drought

due to El Nino — a general warming of parts of the Pacific that changes weather worldwide — are among the domestic risks to the economy's growth.

Balisacan said the economy is expected to grow 6-6.5 percent this year, down from previous estimates, but still among the fastest in the region.

He said the El Nino phenomenon affecting parts of the country is expected to last until early next year and has been forecast to be as intense as the El Nino in 1997-1998 which cut agricultural production by 24 percent. □



PANDORA Paseo Herencia Store Unveils “Evolution” Concept

NOORD - On Thursday, September 10th, PANDORA Aruba unveiled their newly remodeled concept store. The new concept store, known as “EVOLUTION” was first launched in March 2015. Pandora Aruba is honored that they are the second location in the



Caribbean to have the opportunity to transform into this new design. This new beautiful concept is much more customer friendly and permits the Pandora Specialists to walk around with the customer and interact more freely, shopping side by side together. Also with the reveal of the new store comes the release of the new Autumn Collection. There are a large variety of new collections and updates on already existing collections! There are in total 52 new charms, various new necklaces, pendants, bracelets and rings have been added to the existing collection. Making it one of their must have collection to date.

Exclusively for Pandora Aruba we have the privilege to announce that the



famous and very popular official Aruba Logo Charm is now available in 2 new versions, the silver dangle with colored enamel Aruba logo and the white Murano with the colored Aruba logo. These will be available very soon. Come visit the new Pandora Concept Store at Paseo Herencia! Next week we are offering the “Charm Event” starting September 17 till the 20th, you will be eligible to receive 1 free charm up to a value of \$65 with every purchase

of a \$100. Imagine walking out with the necklace and/or earrings of your choice and receiving the matching charm for free to complete your new look. This time around you can purchase any Pandora jewelry and receive a free charm. Pre-sales started on September 10th till 16, reserve yours today!

For more information, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/PandoraAruba> and <http://instagram.com/pandorapaseoas> we share more updates and show us your creative ways of styling your PANDORA jewelry! #ArtOfYou

September Special:

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ents with many enticing options to choose from. You may want start with

their spinach and artichoke dip followed by a main course of delicious chicken marsala and compliment it with a glass of wine.

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Renewed Recruitment Website VanEps Kunneman VanDoorne

ORANJESTAD - Law firm VanEps Kunneman VanDoorne has revised its special recruitment website. The website informs students, starters and professionals about the career options with the firm. VanEps Kunneman VanDoorne aims its recruitment policy at (future) lawyers from the Caribbean or those who have affinity with the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. The information provided and the look and feel of the website - www.advocaatindecariben.com - reflect this. The website shows in words and visually why the legal profession in the Dutch Caribbean region, and specifically with



VanEps Kunneman VanDoorne, is so special. The dynamic website provides a variety of impressions, just like the Caribbean itself. For instance, 15 colleagues of VanEps Kunneman VanDoorne share their vision on

aspects of living and working on the various islands of the Dutch Caribbean, such as the social life and the typical characteristics of the legal profession in this region. Visitors can also experience the legal profes-

sion in the tropics through the blog that is published on the website. Finally, the website provides various options to get to know the firm personally, such as a Skype consultation hour with the recruiter and an overview of all recruitment activities in an event calendar. Of course, all vacancies are published on the website.

There is also a website version for support staff, in addition to the two versions for starting and experienced lawyers. This way, specific information is provided per target group. The website is part of a new recruitment campaign of VanEps Kunneman VanDoorne.

Partner Mayesi Hammoud, responsible for HR, says: "We are always looking for the best lawyers. We want to offer this critical target group the same comprehensive approach and flexibility that we also provide to our clients. This requires more than simply a summary of vacancies on our firm's normal website. With the recruitment website, and by sharing extensive information on social media, potential future colleagues can already get to know us, get an impression based on which they can decide to apply for a job, and they can ask specific questions during the application procedure." □

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EQ3 Aruba Introduces New lines of Outdoor Furniture, Blinds and Furniture for Hotels and Condominiums!

ORANJESTAD - The EQ3 Furniture store, located at Schotlandstraat 45, right across from Ling & Sons Supermarket, offers a unique collection of modern living in combination with style and grace.

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EQ3 introduces an exclusive new hospitality division in outdoor furniture by partnering with Telescope Casual Outdoor Furniture. Thus, making EQ3 the only furniture store in Aruba that offers both indoor and outdoor quality designed furniture! The products are also suited for Hospitality and Commercial use.



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residential use. For more information about EQ3 Aruba and its new divisions in Hospitality or residential use visit the website at www.eq3aruba.com. □

Loyal Guest Honored by the Aruba Tourism Authority



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice woman as a Distinguished Visitor to Aruba at the Caribbean Palm Village. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token

of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The happy honoree is Elaine Smith of Virginia. Elaine is a loyal member of the Caribbean Palm Village and she loves Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, the beaches, the restaurants, the casinos, and of course the relaxation. She says being on Aruba and staying at the Caribbean Palm Village is like being in paradise. Ms. Darline de Cuba representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, Visitors care Liaison bestowed the certificate of Distinguished Visitor to the honoree on behalf of the Government of Aruba. Mrs. Mislady Fingal was present at the ceremony and handed out some nice gifts to the honoree and also thanked her on behalf of Caribbean Palm Village. □



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extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao smiles during an interview in suburban Pasay, south of Manila, Philippines, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015.

Associated Press

Pacquiao is OK with no rematch with Mayweather

OLIVER TEVES

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) —

Manny Pacquiao doubts he will have a rematch with Floyd Mayweather because the American says he's retiring. And besides, boxing is not his priority these days.

Mayweather beat Pacquiao in boxing's richest fight in May, and after he defeated Andre Berto last week for the 49th win of his undefeated career, he said he will retire.

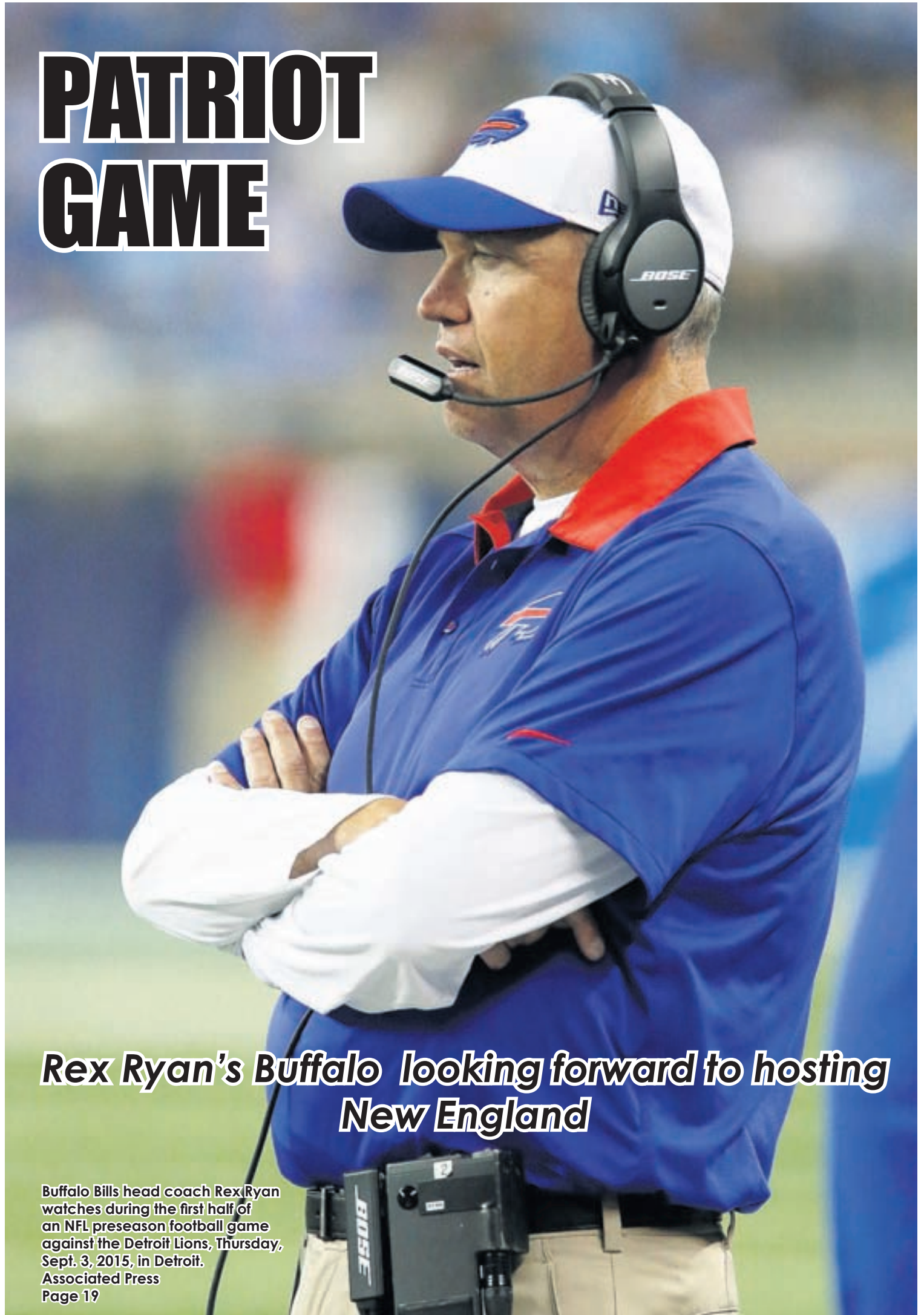
"Boxing is not my focus because I can only fight next year, to give my shoulder a rest," Pacquiao told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Pacquiao was still rehabilitating the right rotator cuff that was injured before the fight, and had surgery for afterwards.

As a congressman, he said he was focused on building homes for the homeless in his southern home province of Sarangani.

Continued on page 18

PATRIOT GAME



Rex Ryan's Buffalo looking forward to hosting New England

Buffalo Bills head coach Rex Ryan watches during the first half of an NFL preseason football game against the Detroit Lions, Thursday, Sept. 3, 2015, in Detroit. Associated Press Page 19

Elena Delle Donne wins WNBA Most Valuable Player award

DOUG FEINBERG

AP Basketball Writer

Elena Delle Donne was announced as the WNBA's Most Valuable Player on Wednesday for the first time in her young career.

"Sounds pretty crazy hearing that," the Chicago Sky star said. "It's been an incredible season. My teammates are the ones that have the credit, the coaches as well. We had so much fun this year. Just want to keep it going."

Delle Done averaged 23.4 points per game to lead the league this season and help Chicago secure the second seed in the Eastern Conference.

"It's such a humbling thing with all the superstars in the league for me to be named MVP this season," Delle Donne said in a phone interview Wednesday night. "It's really special and really hard to put words to it. The crazy thing to think was that one day I had put the basketball down and might never have picked it up again."

Delle Donne was remembering when she transferred from UConn to Delaware before her freshman year of college citing homesickness and burnout. She didn't decide to play basketball again until her sophomore year, after playing volleyball for



In this Sunday, Sept. 13, 2015, file photo, Chicago Sky's Elena Delle Donne gestures during the second half of a WNBA basketball game against the Connecticut Sun in Uncasville, Conn.

Associated Press

a season.

"I'm glad I took this type of road to get here, it makes it that much sweeter," she said. She plans on bringing the trophy home to Delaware.

The 26-year-old forward averaged 8.4 rebounds —

more than double her total from the previous year. She also blocked two shots a game. The 2013 Rookie of the Year had a career-best 45 points early in the season and shot 95 percent from the free throw line.

"It showed I was more

than just an offensive scorer," Delle Donne said. "Obviously scoring is something the team needed, but they also needed me to do more. Pokey (Chatman) talked to me last offseason about rebounding. That was a

challenge I took to heart. I've worked much harder this season to improve defensively. I take pride in being an all-around player." She received 38 of the 39 first-place votes from a national media panel of sportswriters and broadcasters. Minnesota's Maya Moore, who won the award last year, received the other first-place vote. New York's Tina Charles finished third. Phoenix's Brittney Griner was fourth and LA's Candace Parker was fifth.

Delle Donne is the first Chicago Sky player to win the award and just the fourth from the Eastern Conference in the league's 19 years.

As excited as Delle Donne was to win the award, she has loftier thoughts.

"The WNBA championship is by far the biggest goal," she said. "That would be far the most amazing thing to bring home to Chicago."

Chicago faces Indiana in the opening round of the playoffs that begin Thursday night. □

Pacquiao

Continued from page 17

"I'm OK. Whether there is a second (bout with Mayweather), it's not a problem," he said. "I heard he has retired, so it doesn't matter."

For his next fight, he said he will take on any other contender, "because I do not choose my opponents."

Pacquiao also said he was waiting to see if U.S. boxing authorities will sanction Mayweather for taking an IV drip after the weigh-in for their fight in Las Vegas. Punishment seemed unlikely, as Mayweather has been supported by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency,



Questions from reporters during an interview in suburban Pasay, south of Manila, Philippines on Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015.

Pacquiao said boxing is not his main focus these days and a rematch with Floyd Mayweather may not happen because the American champion said he was retiring.

Associated Press

to which he disclosed the infusion beforehand. The USADA said it contained no

prohibited substances. Pacquiao's camp was critical of anti-doping authori-

ties who did not allow him to take medication for his rotator cuff injury before the fight.

On Mayweather's IV, he said: "What I want to know and clarify is if he committed an offense, how will the rules be applied?"

Regarding the Philippines general election in May 2016, Pacquiao refused to disclose his plans. He told reporters he will soon announce whether he will run for re-election or governor of his province, or seek a seat in the Senate.

He is expected to make his announcement, and the presidential candidate he will support, before the Oct. 16 deadline for filing of candidacy papers. □

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Bills spill their dislike of AFC East rival Patriots

JOHN WAWROW

AP Sports Writer

ORCHARD PARK, New York (AP) —

Defensive tackle Marcell Dareus and the Buffalo Bills really don't like the New England Patriots. And they're not afraid to say it.

"Don't nobody like the Patriots," Dareus said. "Let's just be honest about it now. Put it out there."

Safety Aaron Williams referred to his dislike as being personal.

"I just don't like New England," Williams said, fully appreciating his comments will likely wind up being bulletin-board material.

"They're a great football team, don't get that twisted at all," he said, before adding: "It's just the way they carry themselves."

Now, Williams said, it's time for the Bills to start backing up their emotions on Sunday, when the Super Bowl champions travel to Orchard Park for an early-season AFC East showdown between two 1-0 teams.

The Bills have good reason to carry ill will toward New England after serving as the Patriots' personal pat-sies for much of the past 15 seasons. It's a span in which Buffalo has gone 3-26. That includes a mean-nothing 17-9 win in last year's season finale, when playoff-bound New England rested most of its starters after the first half.

This year, the Bills vow, will be different in their latest bid to end what now stands as a 15-season playoff drought — the NFL's longest active streak. To do

so, they know they need to unseat the Patriots, who have claimed the division 11 times since 2002.

"I definitely think this is the most talented team I've been on," seventh-year center Eric Wood said. "So with that, I would assume it would make it our best team we've brought against them."

Buffalo opened with a 27-14 win over Indianapolis last weekend. And the team is coming off an offseason in which it restocked its roster with high-priced talent on offense, and returned one of the league's top defense's.

The Bills are further emboldened by the hiring of brash-talking coach, Rex Ryan, who was never afraid of taking a jab at the Patriots during his previous six-year tenure with the New York Jets.

"I respect them probably as much as any team in the league, but I don't fear them, I can tell you that much," Ryan said, referring to New England on Wednesday. "We don't fear anybody. In fact we're looking forward to it."

Ryan didn't come close to repeating what he said during his first season as Jets coach in 2009, when suggesting he had no intention of kissing Patriots coach Bill Belichick's Super Bowl rings.

And yet, Ryan made it clear that beating Belichick would be more meaningful than most any other regular-season win.

"It is a personal challenge because you want to go against the very best," said



In this photo taken Thursday, Sept. 10, 2015, New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick watches action from the sideline in the second half of an NFL football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

Ryan, whose Jets went 4-9 against the Patriots, including a playoff victory in 2010. "I'd much rather have a win and compete against a first-ballot Hall of Fame coach in Belichick than a slappy coach."

All the talk from Buffalo hardly resonated in New England.

"It doesn't matter to me," star quarterback Tom Brady said. "The games are won by what you do over the course of the week and how you go about your preparation, so that you can be prepared for

the game on Sunday. He's a great coach. He's obviously got them confident. They're ready to go — sounds like they're already ready to go."

Belichick and Brady are aware that Ryan's arrival has generated a big buzz among Bills fans, who roared through much of the opener against Indianapolis. The crowd might be even louder at Ralph Wilson Stadium on Sunday, though Belichick isn't overly concerned.

Noting that the Patriots can take the crowd out of the

game by getting off to a fast start, Belichick said: "They will be as loud as we allow them to be."

A New England-based reporter posted Belichick's comment on his Twitter account. The Bills retweeted the comment on their team's account with the note: "That's cute."

"The game's at our place on Sunday, let's see what happens," Ryan said. "If they beat us they beat us, but we don't concede anything. We're not beat just because they get off the bus, like some teams." □

AL Capsules

Astros for 1st in AL West with 6-5 win

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)

— The Rangers overtook the Houston Astros for first place in the AL West, winning another tense Texas showdown on Mitch Moreland's sacrifice fly in the bottom of the ninth inning. Adrian Beltre's fourth hit put the Rangers in position to win a night after Prince Fielder pulled them within a half-game of the Astros with a tiebreaking two-run home run in the eighth. Houston had been in first place since July 28. Fielder opened the ninth with a single to left off Oliver Perez (2-3), and pinch-runner Drew Stubbs went to third on Beltre's third single. Moreland sent a 1-0 pitch from Will Harris to Colby Rasmus in shallow center field, but Rasmus' throw was off target and bounced, allowing Stubbs to score easily.

Texas closer Shawn Tolleson (6-3) pitched a scoreless ninth as the Rangers (77-67) moved into first place for the first time this year, at a season-high 10 games over .500. Houston (77-68) holds the second AL wild card.

ROYALS 2, INDIANS 0

CLEVELAND (AP) — Kris Medlen pitched five-hit ball over 6 1-3 innings and Alex Rios hit a home run that launched some unintentional fireworks, leading the Royals to a win over the Indians.

Medlen (4-1) stifled the Indians before Royals manager Ned Yost turned things over to his top-ranked bullpen. Ryan Madson struck out two in the seventh, Wade Davis got through the eighth and Greg Holland worked around a two-on, no-out mess he created in the ninth for his 31st save.

Rios homered in the fifth inning off Josh Tomlin (5-2) for the Royals, who won for just the third time in 11 games as they close in on a probable AL Central title.

The Indians, who pulled back to .500 for just the second time since April by winning the series opener, fell to 13-6 since Aug. 25.

RAYS 6, YANKEES 3

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Nick Franklin hit a go-



Texas Rangers' Hanser Alberto (68) and the rest of the team celebrate with Mitch Moreland, center, after Moreland hit an RBI sacrifice fly off Houston Astros relief pitcher Will Harris during the ninth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2015, in Arlington, Texas. The Rangers won 6-5.

ahead two-run homer in the sixth inning and the Rays beat the AL wild-card leading Yankees.

Hobbled Alex Rodriguez and Greg Bird homered for the Yankees, who remain three games behind AL East-leading Toronto, which lost 3-2 at Atlanta.

Franklin, who entered when shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera left after four innings with a left knee strain, put the Rays up 4-3 on his homer off Nick Rumbelow (1-1). J.P. Aren- cibia made it 6-3 on a two-run single in the eighth.

Rodriguez hit his 32nd homer this season and 686th of his career off Jake Odorizzi (8-8) in the first hours after the team learned he is playing with a bruised left knee. Rodriguez moved past Craig Biggio into sole possession of 21st place all-time with his 3,061st hit.

TIGERS 5, TWINS 4

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Victor Martinez had three hits and two RBIs, and the Tigers beat Phil Hughes and the Twins.

James McCann also had three hits for Detroit, and Alfredo Simon (13-9) pitched into the seventh inning. Bruce Rondon allowed a

run in the ninth before finishing for his fifth save.

The Tigers (66-78) were officially eliminated in the AL Central after winning the division title each of the last four years.

Rangers overtake Minnesota (75-69) is contending for an AL wild card, but Hughes (10-9) lasted just three innings in his return from a month-long stint on the disabled list with a back injury.

ATHLETICS 17, WHITE SOX 6

CHICAGO (AP) — Josh Reddick homered and drove in four runs during a 10-run fourth inning to power the Athletics to a rout of the White Sox.

Billy Butler had three hits and three runs batted in, and Eric Sogard and Jake Smolinski each had a pair of RBIs as the Athletics snapped a six-game losing streak against Chicago.

Reddick had a two-run homer and a two-run single in the big inning. The 17 runs were the most by the A's since they scored 18 on Sept. 11, 2013, against the Minnesota Twins.

Aaron Brooks (2-3) allowed six runs on 10 hits in six-plus innings for the win. Brooks

had been 0-3 with a 14.14 ERA in his last five games in the majors with an opponents' batting average of .439 before Tuesday.

Melky Cabrera had a homer and three RBIs and Alexei Ramirez had a solo homer for the White Sox.

ORIOLES 6, RED SOX 5, 13 innings

BALTIMORE (AP) — Chris Davis singled in the winning run in the 13th inning, and the Orioles got home runs from Manny Machado and Steve Pearce in a victory over the Red Sox on Tuesday night.

The Orioles have won six of seven to keep alive their narrow shot of earning the second AL wild-card spot. Gerardo Parra led off the 13th by drawing a walk from rookie Jonathan Aro (0-1). Machado singled, advancing Parra to third, and Robbie Ross came in to face Davis.

Davis lined a 2-1 pitch past the drawn-in infield and into right field to collect his 107th RBI and end the 4-hour, 20-minute marathon.

Chaz Roe (3-2), the seventh Baltimore pitcher, worked the 13th to get the win.

Boston used nine pitchers, limiting the Orioles to one hit from the sixth inning through the 12th.

ANGELS 4, MARINERS 3

SEATTLE (AP) — David Murphy hit a three-run homer and Mike Trout added a solo shot to power the Angels to a victory over Felix Hernandez and the Mariners.

Murphy, hitting leadoff for the first time this season, hit his ninth home run off the top of the wall in right field in the third inning. Hernandez (17-9) had hit David Freese to open the inning and Carlos Perez, who had three hits, reached on an infield single.

Trout connected for his 36th homer in the sixth on an 0-2 pitch from Hernandez, who went seven innings, allowing four runs and five hits, striking out five and walking two.

Nick Tropeano (2-2), in his fourth stint with the Angels and making his fifth start this season, worked five innings for the victory, allowing two runs and four hits with five strikeouts and three walks. Joe Smith finished the ninth for his third save. □

Associated Press

NL Capsules

Cubs top Pirates 2-1 to earn doubleheader split

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jon Lester limited the Pittsburgh Pirates to five hits while picking up his first complete game of the season and the Chicago Cubs earned a doubleheader split with a 2-1 win on Tuesday night. The Pirates took the first game 5-4 when Pedro Florimon scored on Starling Marte's sacrifice fly in the eighth, but they couldn't complete the sweep as the Cubs pulled back within four games of Pittsburgh for the top spot in the NL wild-card race.

Lester (10-10) walked one and struck out nine while picking up his 12th career complete game. David Ross and Javier Baez had two hits each for the Cubs. J.A. Happ (9-8) had his five-game winning streak end. Happ pitched in and out of trouble, allowing two runs on eight hits in 5 2-3 innings. Aramis Ramirez had two hits but Pittsburgh's rejuvenged lineup mustered little against Lester.

NATIONALS 4, PHILLIES 0

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Stephen Strasburg gave up one hit and equaled a career-best with 14 strikeouts in eight dominant innings and Bryce Harper hit two homers as the Nationals beat the Phillies.

Strasburg (9-7) allowed only a single to Cody Asche leading off the bottom of the fifth — a hard grounder to right field. He has 27 strikeouts in his last two starts.

The hard-throwing righty struck out the side twice and fanned eight of the last 12 batters he faced. He was still firing 96 mph fastballs in the eighth. Blake Treinen tossed a 1-2-3 ninth to complete the shutout.

The Nationals have won three straight, but it's seems too late to catch the NL East-leading New York Mets.

MARLINS 9, METS 3

NEW YORK (AP) — Jacob deGrom was hit hard during a rare dud at home against one of his favorite

opponents, and the Marlins stopped the Mets' eight-game winning streak.

Mets nemesis Dee Gordon homered and had four hits to back Tom Koehler, who plunked Yoenis Cespedes in the first inning and then helped silence the streaking slugger the rest of the way.

New York's commanding lead in the NL East was trimmed to 8 1/2 games over Washington, which beat Philadelphia 4-0. The magic number remained 10 for the Mets to clinch their sixth division title.

Christian Yelich had three hits and two RBIs following a surprise meeting with his "Saturday Night Live" dopelganger, and Justin Bour also had three hits and two RBIs.

BRAVES 3, BLUE JAYS 2

ATLANTA (AP) — Andrelton Simmons' tiebreaking RBI single in the ninth inning snapped a 12-game home losing streak and the Braves beat the AL East-leading Blue Jays.

Toronto began the night with a three-game lead over the New York Yankees, but the Blue Jays, despite the majors' best record since the All-Star break, have lost two straight.

The Braves ended the longest home skid in franchise history. They began the game 14-46 overall since July 8.

Aaron Sanchez (7-6) took the loss, allowing four hits, one run and striking out one in 1 1-3 innings.

Arodys Vizcaino (3-1) faced the minimum in the ninth to earn the win.

Blue Jays sluggers Josh Donaldson and Jose Bautista went a combined 0 for 8 with four strikeouts. First baseman Edwin Encarnacion, Toronto's other big bat, missed his second straight game with an injured finger.

CARDINALS 3, BREWERS 1

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Jason Heyward hit a line drive two-run homer in the 10th inning to lead the Cardinals to a victory over the Brew-

ers.

St. Louis has won consecutive games following a 2-8 skid and increased its lead in the NL Central to three games over second-place Pittsburgh.

Kevin Siegrist (7-1) pitched the ninth and Trevor Rosenthal the 10th for his 44th save.

Carlos Martinez matched a season high by going eight innings. He struck out nine and gave up one earned run and four hits, as the team improved to 16-4 in his last 20 starts.

Milwaukee lost its fourth straight game and has just 10 victories in its last 36 home games against St. Louis.

Matt Carpenter led off the 10th and reached on an error on by first baseman Adam Lind. With one out, Heyward connected off Tyler Thornburg (0-2) for his 12th homer.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, PADRES 4

PHOENIX (AP) — A.J. Pollock's three-run homer led the Diamondbacks to a victory over the Padres.

Pollock drove the first pitch from reliever Kevin Quackenbush into the left-field seats. Quackenbush had just entered the game for losing pitcher Bud Norris (1-2).

The Diamondbacks scored five runs in the inning and batted around off four Padres relievers, spoiling a good performance from Padres starter Tyson Ross, who struck out nine and allowed a run on four hits in six innings.

Randall Delgado (6-4) got the win in relief, ending the seventh with a strikeout of Wil Myers, the only batter he faced.

Down 3-1, the Diamondbacks cut the lead to one on a run-scoring triple by Nick Ahmed. The ball bounced under left fielder Justin Upton's glove and went to the wall. Then after Norris walked pinch hitter Aaron Hill, Pollock hit his home run. □



Chicago Cubs starting pitcher Jon Lester (34) delivers during the fifth inning of the second baseball game of a doubleheader against the Pittsburgh Pirates in Pittsburgh, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2015.

Associated Press

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SEPTEMBER 17 - 23

EVEREST
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]

MON-THURS 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20
FRI 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20 | 12:00
SAT 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20

SCORCH TRIALS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]

MON-THURS 6:10 | 9:00
FRI 6:10 | 9:00 | 11:40
SAT 3:20 | 6:10 | 9:00 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 3:20 | 6:10 | 9:00

BLACK MASS
MON-THURS 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:15
FRI 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:15 | 11:55
SAT 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:15 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:15

EVEREST
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]

MON-FRI 8:20
SAT, SUN & HOL 8:20

MON-THURS 5:40
FRI 5:40 | 11:00
SAT 3:00 | 5:40 | 11:00
SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:40

THE VISIT
MON-THURS 5:10 | 7:20
FRI 5:10 | 7:20
SAT 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20
SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20

THE PERFECT GUY
MON-THURS 4:35 | 6:55 | 9:15
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SAT 2:15 | 4:35 | 6:55 | 9:15 | 11:35
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THE TRANSPORTER REPALED
MON-THURS 9:30
FRI 9:30 | 11:45
SAT 9:30 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 9:30

Shaun the Sheep MOVIE
SAT 2:45
SUN 2:45

HITMAN AGENT 47
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R]

MON-THURS 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35
FRI, SAT 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35

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British Cycling aims for podium at road world championships

DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

From Bradley Wiggins celebrating his groundbreaking Tour de France triumph on the Champs-Elysses, to Britain's record-setting medal haul at the London Olympics, the rest of the world has been trying to play catch-up to British Cycling the past few years.

Now, with the road world championships beginning this weekend in Richmond, Virginia, Britain once again has aspirations of landing several riders on the top step of a podium.

"I think we're pretty good on most of our age groups across the board there," said Ian Dyer, Britain's coach coordinator.

The team announced last week is highlighted on the men's side by former world champion Mark Cavendish and the versatile Geraint Thomas, and the women's side by Lizzie Armitstead, who last month was crowned the overall World Cup champion after a dominant season.

But there are also some familiar names missing from the roster.

Start with Wiggins, the reigning Olympic and world time trial champion, who has all but retired from road racing as he returns to track cycling for the Rio Olympics. Then there's Chris Froome, this year's Tour champion, who would have been among the time trial favorites in Richmond had a crash at the Vuelta a Espana not ended his season.

"Both for the road race and time trial, Froome would have been a pretty good bet, I think," Dyer said. "But the main thing is he heals up and has a good winter now."

There are many reasons Britain — once an afterthought in the sport — has climbed pedal stroke by pedal stroke onto the level of traditional heavyweights such as Italy and France.

Start with the vision of long-time boss Dave Brailsford, who stepped aside last year to focus on his role leading Team Sky. He introduced the concept of



In this May 20, 2015, file photo, cyclist Mark Cavendish, of Britain, makes his way up Libby Hill during his test ride of the 2015 UCI Road World Championships Road Course.

Associated Press

marginal gains, where the team would seek out even the smallest edges, such as ways to optimize sleep schedules. The idea was that all those tiny advantages would add up to significant gains on the rest of the competition.

"Often the process of training and preparing athletes was getting overlooked," said David Bailey, who was a physiologist for British Cy-

cling and now works for the BMC Racing Team. "Some things we did had less than a 1 percent benefit, but it all adds up."

Of course, marginal gains are easier to unearth if there is plenty of cash available. Since the late 1990s, lottery funding has helped to fill British Cycling's coffers, allowing it to hire the best coaches and trainers and develop the best tech-

nology.

"The world of cycling is a bit of an arms race right now just in the amount of money teams spend on scientific training, research, nutritionists, stuff that didn't happen years ago," said Jonathan Vaughters, who runs the U.S.-based Cannondale-Garmin team.

That goes for trade teams and national teams alike. "We don't receive govern-

ment funding. Most of our competitors do," said Derek Bouchard-Hall, who was chosen earlier this year to be the new CEO of USA Cycling. "We're dependent on membership activities and corporate sponsorship, and donors. That's a real hurdle to overcome." The evidence is in the hardware.

In 2011, Cavendish delivered Britain's first road world title since the star-crossed Tom Simpson in 1965 — nobody else had even finished on the podium. Nicole Cooke won the women's race in 2008, the same year she captured gold at the Beijing Olympics.

While the British were shut out of medals at the BMX world championships this year, they made up for it with two gold, three silver and two bronze medals at the mountain bike worlds.

Now comes the road worlds, where Cavendish and Thomas are joined by a young, talented roster that includes Luke Rowe and Alex Dowsett, and where Armitstead will be accompanied in the women's race by Alice Barnes and British national time trial champ Hayley Simmonds.

"We have high hopes for a number of riders in terms of medal prospects," Dyer said, "but it will also be a fantastic opportunity for some of the younger and less experienced members of the team to compete at an international event for the first time." □

Hayne helps ESPN to record Australian TV figures for NFL

SYDNEY (AP) — They're minuscule viewership numbers compared with the U.S., but Jarryd Hayne's NFL regular-season debut with the San Francisco 49ers drew a higher television audience in Australia than the Super Bowl.

Mumbrella, an Australian entertainment website, on Wednesday said Hayne's debut drew a television audience on ESPN of 116,000, topping the record mark of 107,100 for this year's Super

Bowl.

ESPN is only available on pay television in Australia. The figures do not include those from a station which acquired the 49ers' free-to-air rights this season.

The ex-rugby league star's first touch of the ball was a fumble and turnover to the Minnesota Vikings. But he had four rushes for 13 yards with a 9-yard gain as his longest run, while also catching a 7-yard pass, in San Francisco's 20-3 win.

Associated Press.

U.S. beats Venezuela to stay unbeaten at volleyball World Cup

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — The United States overpowered Venezuela 25-18, 25-16, 25-20 to stay unbeaten and remain in first place at the volleyball World Cup on Wednesday.

Matt Anderson scored 14 points and Taylor Sander 12, as the U.S. continued to dominate on serve, out-

scoring Venezuela 12-4.

The U.S. improved to 6-0 for 18 points, one ahead of world champion Poland, which was also unbeaten but conceded more sets.

Poland rallied from a set down to beat Canada 23-25, 25-15, 25-19, 25-19. Bartosz Kurek scored 21 points. Italy was third with a 5-1 record after beating Iran 25-19, 25-23, 25-21.

Also, Argentina defeated winless Egypt 25-18, 25-19, 25-21 to lie fifth. □

Smarter Siri, better battery life in Apple software update

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Apple's iPhones and iPads are getting free software updates Wednesday, including battery improvements and a smarter virtual assistant.

The new features and capabilities in the update, iOS 9, are primarily refinements rather than anything transformative. But the new software is still worth getting, especially as new apps often require the latest version to work.

Apple Watch was also supposed to get a software update Wednesday, but that got delayed because Apple found a bug. A separate Mac update, known as El Capitan, is coming out this fall.

Here are some things to know about Wednesday's updates:

ON THE IPHONE

Although some features such as 3D Touch contextual menus will require the new iPhones that are coming next week, existing devices will get:

— **Battery life:** Besides under-the-hood improvements, a new low-power mode will reduce or turn off non-essential tasks such as visual effects and automatic downloads. The phone also won't check for new mail or update content for apps in the background as often.

— **Navigation:** From the main home screen, swipe left to right for a new search screen. The Siri virtual assistant suggests frequently used contacts and apps and nearby businesses, taking into account whether it's evening or lunch time. As you jump around from app to app, some apps show a new back button on the top left corner to get you back to what you were doing.

— **Notifications:** Swipe down from the top edge for missed notifications, with the most recent on top. Before, they were grouped by app, so you had to sift through weeks-old notifications from little-used apps to find the new ones. You can restore



In this Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2013, file photo, an Apple employee demonstrates the new iPad Mini in San Francisco. Associated Press

grouping by app in the settings.

— **Sleeping in:** If you choose a particular song as your alarm sound, the song will keep playing until you turn off the alarm or hit snooze. Before, the alarm automatically stops once the song ends, even if you didn't hear it. Now, you'll hear it over and over — though that might just encourage you to stay in bed.

— **Security:** If you have a new device with fingerprint ID, you'll be asked to create a longer passcode as a backup, with six digits instead of four. Because you'll need to enter your passcode less often, it might as well be stronger. The four-digit passcode won't change if you're simply upgrading rather than setting up a new device.

— **Getting there:** Apple Maps gets transit directions in major cities, addressing a major omission. In some cities, including New York and London, Apple sent teams to map out subway entrances for more precise directions to and from stations — helpful when stations stretch for blocks underground.

— **Gone:** The Newsstand icon disappears, replaced by an unrelated News service. Go directly to the publication's app for your subscriptions. You can recreate Newsstand by putting all the apps into the

same folder. Passbook gets replaced by Wallet, now that the Apple Pay payment service is becoming a bigger part of Apple's ambitions. Apple Pay will now work with store-branded credit cards and loyalty cards, though it'll be up to merchants to decide when they'll start accepting them.

ON THE IPAD

Though Apple's larger-screen iPad Pro for business

customers isn't coming until November, existing iPads get the new iPhone features, along with others geared toward improving productivity:

— **Multitasking:** Swipe left from the right edge to run a second app, such as Maps to look up directions or Notes to jot down reminders. The choices are limited for now, but expect more developers to support that function. You can also run video in a small

window while another app uses the rest of the screen. Do this by tapping an icon on the lower right of the video. You can move the video window to any corner or resize it by pinching in and out. It works only with a few video apps for now, but more are coming. — **Laptop-like controls:** Place two fingers on the on-screen keyboard and start sliding around the screen to move the cursor around.

HOW TO GET

Back up your device and make sure your favorite apps will be compatible. Popular apps will likely have updates right away, but obscure ones might need more time to catch up.

When you're ready, go to "General," then "Software Update" in the settings. You need at least 1.3 gigabytes of free space.

You also need an iPhone or an iPad released in 2011 or later, or an iPod Touch since 2012. Not every feature will work with older models, so you might consider a new phone instead. New devices will ship with the updates already installed. □

Facebook ready to test button that goes beyond 'like'

The Associated Press

Facebook may finally be getting a button that lets you quickly express something beyond a "like." Founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg said Tuesday that people have been asking for a "dislike" button on the social media site for years.

Speaking at an event at Facebook's Menlo Park, California, headquarters that was streamed live online, Zuckerberg acknowledged that "like" isn't always appropriate for some posts — about a tragic news event, for example — when people might want to express empathy.

Zuckerberg said the company, however, has veered



In this March 25, 2015, file photo, CEO Mark Zuckerberg gestures while delivering the keynote address at the Facebook F8 Developer Conference in San Francisco. Associated Press

away from making a "dislike" button, which could be used to vote down other people's posts. He said

the new button is ready to be tested soon and could be rolled out broadly depending on how it does. □

Wall Street advances ahead of Fed decision

KEN SWEET
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks posted solid gains Wednesday ahead of a closely watched decision by the Federal Reserve on whether or not to raise interest rates.

Beer companies gained on word of a possible deal between two giant brewers, and energy stocks rose sharply following a big jump in the price of oil.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 140.10 points, or 0.8 percent, to 16,739.95. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 17.22 points, or 0.9 percent, to 1,995.31 and the Nasdaq composite added 28.72 points, or 0.6 percent, to 4,889.24.

Investors have been speculating about when the Fed-

year bull market in stocks by making bonds, CDs and other interest-bearing investments less attractive, driving investors to put money into the stock market.

"If they raise tomorrow, it's going to be nasty for the stock market. Much of the rally back has had much to do with investors believing the Fed isn't going to move," said Tom di Galoma, head of fixed income rates trading at ED&F Man Capital.

Investors' opinions are mixed on the chance of a rate increase. Two months ago, it seemed almost certain that the Fed was going to raise rates in September. Now, after the turmoil in financial markets in August over concerns about

percent in London after the company said it received a takeover offer from Anheuser-Busch InBev of Belgium. A combination of the two would create a massive conglomerate worth \$275 billion. Any potential deal would be heavily scrutinized by regulators.

U.S.-traded shares of AB InBev rose \$7.39, or 7 percent, to \$115.43. Other beer makers also rose. Molson Coors jumped \$10.34, or 14 percent, to \$82.98.

Energy stocks also rose after a steeper-than-expected drop in crude inventories sent oil prices sharply higher.

U.S. benchmark crude jumped \$2.56, or 5.7 percent, to \$47.15 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, a



A visitor to the financial district walks past the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015. Stocks posted solid gains Wednesday ahead of a closely watched decision by the Federal Reserve on whether or not to raise interest rates.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

eral Reserve will raise interest rates for months. The Fed started its two-day policy meeting Wednesday and will announce its decision Thursday afternoon, which will be followed by a press conference by Fed Chair Janet Yellen.

Interest rates have been near zero since 2008, when the Fed cut rates sharply in response to the financial crisis and Great Recession. The Fed's low interest rate policy was designed to encourage lending, but it also helped drive a seven-

China's economy, investors are far less certain.

"I just don't think the economy is strong enough and inflation remains too low to justify a rate increase," di Galoma said.

Stocks have been rising steadily ahead of the Fed's meeting. Investors have said that stocks recovered partly because the chances of an interest rate hike diminished.

In company news, SAB-Miller, a major beer maker whose brands include Miller and Foster's, jumped 20

benchmark for many international types of oil imported into the U.S., gained \$2, or 4.2 percent, to \$49.75 a barrel in London.

The Energy Information Administration said U.S. oil supplies fell last week by a steeper-than-expected 2.2 million barrels. Analysts surveyed by Platts expected a decline of 200,000 barrels. The plunge follows news that oil drillers in the U.S. are cutting production in the face of low oil prices. Oil company stocks followed crude oil higher. □

FedEx Q1 results are mixed, lowering fiscal 2016 outlook

DAVID KOENIG
AP Business Writer

DALLAS (AP) — FedEx reported disappointing results for its latest quarter, and the delivery giant cut its full-year profit forecast on weaker demand for freight services and higher costs in its ground division.

The company also said it plans to hire more than 55,000 seasonal workers for the holidays, an increase of at least 5,000 over last year's plan.

Its shares fell almost 4 percent in afternoon trading. FedEx Corp. said that it expects to earn between \$10.40 and \$10.90 for the fiscal year that ends next May, down 20 cents from an earlier prediction. Analysts expected \$10.84, according to a survey by FactSet.

The reduced outlook comes despite cost-cutting moves, growth in online commerce, and upcoming price hikes. Rates for express, ground and freight shipments will rise by average 4.9 percent on Jan. 4, and surcharges for oversized packages will go up in November, before the peak holiday season.

Chairman and CEO Fred Smith said the Memphis, Tennessee-based company was "performing solidly given weaker-than-expected economic conditions, especially in manufacturing and global trade."

Smith blamed the earnings miss and the lower profit forecast on FedEx raising its set-aside for self-insurance.

"The whole thing about the quarter is one issue; it's a self-insurance reserve," he said on a conference call with analysts. "All the rest of the stuff is just noise and various issues inside the operating company."

Analysts pointed out that the self-insurance reserve has hurt results two straight quarters. FedEx did not provide a figure for the higher insurance reserve, but a spokesman said it was included in a line for "other" costs that totaled \$453 million in the quarter, an increase of \$201 million from a year earlier.

Smith also complained that FedEx didn't set earnings targets; analysts did. The company could be paying the price for being a longtime Wall Street favorite.

"When you become beloved by the Street, the downside is it's harder and harder to meet those elevated expectations," said Logan Purk, an analyst with Edward Jones. "That's part of the reason that FedEx has missed (earnings forecasts) the last couple quarters."

Purk said in an interview that the company must boost margins in its ground business, which have been hurt by a low-margin acquisition, and would be helped by any improvement in the global economy and trade.

The holiday-hiring plans were announced a day after rival UPS said that it plans to hire 90,000 to 95,000 extra workers, about the same that it hired last year. FedEx executives said they expect a record holiday season and have been talking to retailers to smooth out peak delivery days. In recent years, free-shipping promotions right up to Christmas have encouraged consumers to shop online later and make it harder for FedEx and UPS to predict and plan for the busiest days.

In the quarter that ended Aug. 31, FedEx earned \$692 million, up 6 percent from a year earlier. Earnings per share amounted to \$2.42, short of the \$2.44 per share average forecast of 12 analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research.

Revenue rose 5 percent, to \$12.3 billion. Six analysts surveyed by Zacks expected \$12.23 billion. □

King of Beers: Makers of Budweiser, Miller eye global merger

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The makers of Budweiser aren't satisfied with being the kings of beer. They want an empire. Anheuser-Busch InBev, the world's biggest brewing company and the owner of Budweiser, announced Wednesday it wants to buy SABMiller, the second-largest brewer — and the maker of long-time rival brand Miller Genuine Draft.

The deal would create a multinational behemoth valued at around \$275 billion with annual sales of \$73.3 billion, more than three times its closest rival, Heineken.

AB InBev already claims six of the world's most valuable beer brands, which besides Budweiser include Corona, Stella Artois and Beck's. Taking over Miller in the U.S. would likely draw objections from regulators worried the deal might stifle competition and lead to higher prices for consumers.

But whereas a lot of the attention will focus on the best-known brands in the U.S. and Europe, AB InBev's sights are on other countries. As profits wane in the Americas, AB InBev wants to expand into Africa.

Enticingly, SABMiller has a huge presence in Africa, the next beer frontier.

"The days of big profits in the U.S. are gone," said Jonny Forsyth, a global drinks analyst for Mintel, the

by eroding market share and competition, ironically, by the little guy. Craft beers now make up 11 percent in

for the next 10 or 20 years but for the next 100 years," Anheuser-Busch InBev CEO Carlos Brito and chairman

early 1990s when Nelson Mandela's release from prison led to a lifting of sanctions on South Africa and allowed the company to expand abroad.

Though the European beer market was dominated by the likes of Guinness and Heineken, SAB took advantage of the opening offered by the fall of the Berlin Wall to sweep into Eastern Europe and buy brewers on the cheap. Its expansion also stretched to other African countries including Mozambique, and to Asia. The company bought Czech brewer Plzensky Prazdroj, maker of Pilsner Urquell, in 1999, U.S.-based Miller Brewing Co. in 2002 and Foster's of Australia in 2011. Today the company employs about 69,000 people in more than 80 countries, from Australia to Zambia, Colombia and the Czech Republic.

AB InBev is likewise the product of many mergers. Its current form emerged from a 2008 takeover of U.S. icon Anheuser Busch Cos. by Brazilian-Belgian brewer InBev. The company has operations in 25 countries and makes more than 200 beers. SABMiller, now based in London, said Wednesday that it "will review and respond as appropriate to any proposal which might be made." □



Budweiser beer is seen for sale at a concession stand at McKechnie Field in Bradenton, Fla. Anheuser-Busch InBev, the world's biggest brewer, on Wednesday Sept. 16, 2015, announced its desire to buy No. 2 SABMiller, creating a beermaker with annual sales of \$73.3 billion, more than three times its closest rival, Heineken Holding.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

market research firm. "They have to position themselves in the big beer growth market for the next 10 years." Shares of SABMiller rocketed about 20 percent higher on news of the approach, pushing its market value to around \$90 billion. Shares of AB InBev rose 6 percent.

The companies are being pushed into consolidation

volume in the U.S. market, Mintel said.

AB InBev and SABMiller are themselves products of this consolidation trend. In every way, they are thinking big.

"We are driven by our passion to create a company that can stand the test of time and create value for our shareholders, not only

Kees J. Storm wrote in a letter to shareholders. "Our mindset is truly long term." But Africa, where home brew still dominates, offers a chance to grow. And that's where SABMiller—the one-time South African industrial conglomerate — offers a foothold.

The former South African Breweries expanded in the

Amgen buys 1 company, partners with 2nd to create new drugs

LINDA A. JOHNSON
AP Business Writer

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Biotech drug giant Amgen has made two much-needed deals to replenish its stock of medicines in development as new competition to its lucrative biotech drugs threatens future revenue.

The world's biggest biotech drugmaker said Wednesday that it's buying one company with a daily cholesterol treatment in mid-stage patient testing and signed a deal with another company, Xencor, to jointly develop drugs for cancer and inflammatory conditions.

Analysts called the deals

smart moves for the Thousand Oaks, California-based company. However,

Amgen shares fell 2.4 percent on the news, then rebounded by afternoon to

\$151.07, down just 0.7 percent.

Amgen makes complex biologic drugs produced in living cells, which until now haven't faced generic competition. The Food and Drug Administration recently set rules to get approval of near-copies of these medicines, called biosimilars. The first, a version of Amgen's Neupogen priced 15 percent lower, went on sale in the U.S. two weeks ago.

Swiss drugmaker Novartis AG is selling Zarzio, its biosimilar version of Neupogen, which fights infection in certain cancer and other patients. Neupogen sales — about \$500 million

in the first half of this year — already have fallen due to most patients switching to follow-on drug Neulasta, which requires less-frequent injections, plus increased brand-name competition. Rival drugmakers are developing biosimilar versions of more-lucrative Amgen medicines whose U.S. patents expire within a few years.

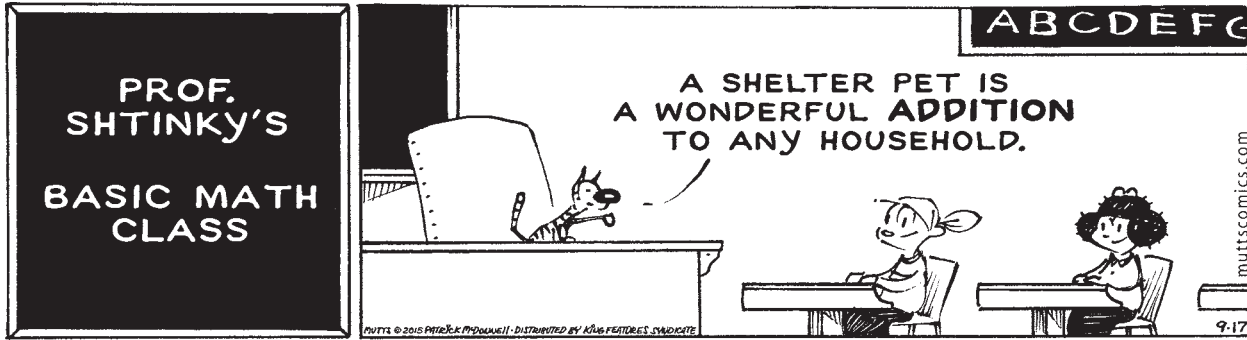
Like most biotech drugmakers, Amgen isn't as good at discovering potential new drugs as at testing them in patients, getting regulatory approval and marketing the resulting new drugs, said analyst Steve Brozak, president of WBB Securities. □



This photo shows signage at the entrance to Amgen Inc. offices in Thousand Oaks, Calif. Biotech drug giant Amgen has made two much-needed deals to replenish its stock of medicines in development.

(AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill)

Mutts



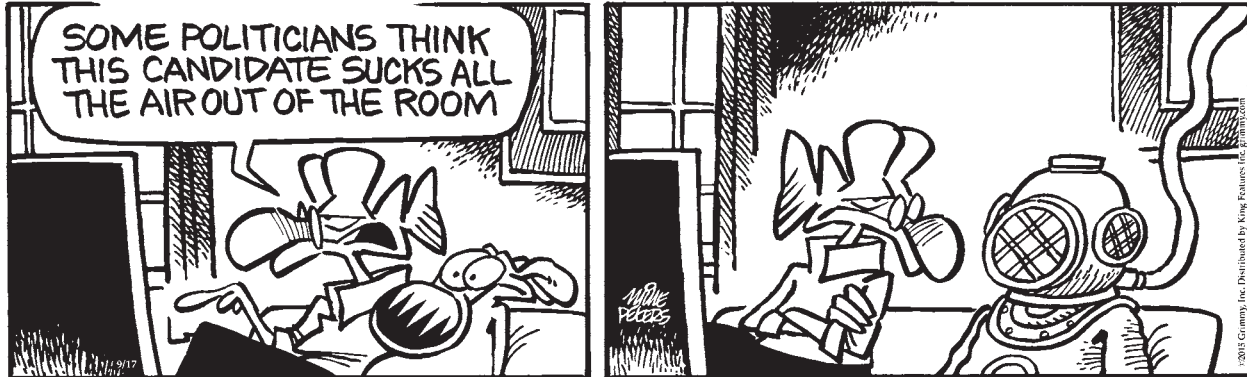
6 Chix



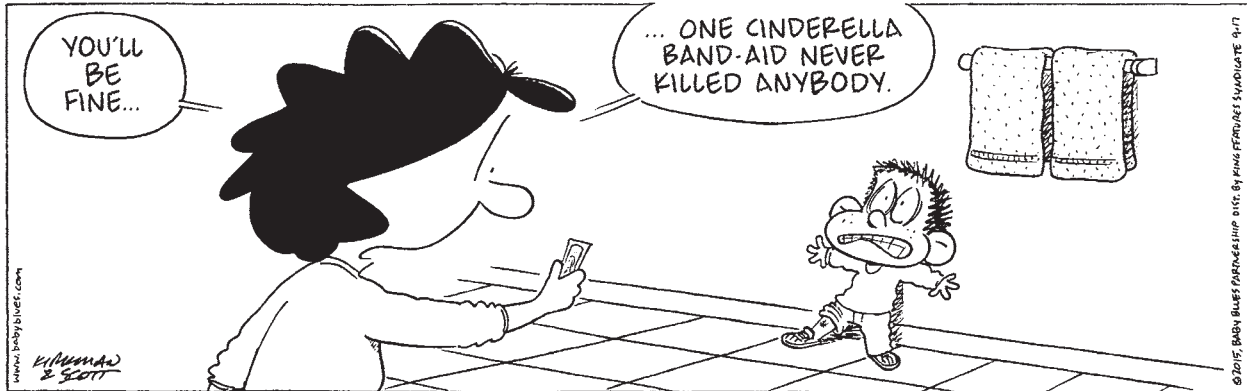
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

5		8				6		2
9			4		7			8
	4			2			6	
			9		1			
	9			7			5	
6			8		3			9
1		2				3		4

Difficulty Level ★★

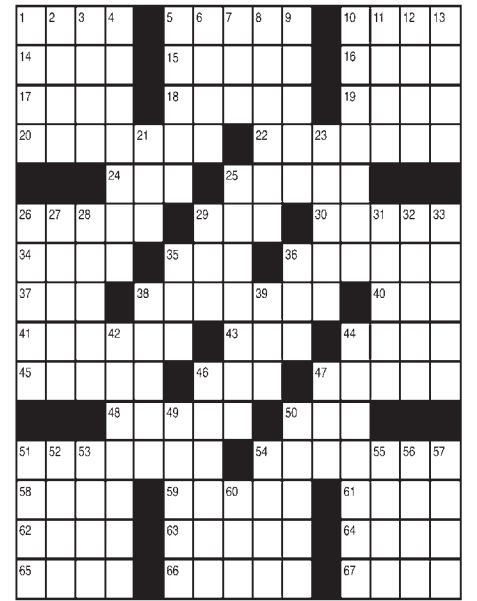
9/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

9	8	1	6	7	3	4	2	5
3	6	7	4	2	5	9	1	8
4	5	2	1	8	9	7	3	6
7	9	6	5	1	4	2	8	3
1	3	5	2	9	8	6	7	4
2	4	8	3	6	7	1	5	9
6	2	3	8	4	1	5	9	7
8	7	4	9	5	2	3	6	1
5	1	9	7	3	6	8	4	2

ACROSS

- 1 Present
5 Neckerchief
10 Pierce
14 Competent
15 ___ bear; white Arctic mammal
16 Actor Nicolas
17 Ardor
18 Senseless
19 Chopping tools
20 Look around in a new place
22 Yo-Yo Ma, for one
24 Wedding words
25 Raúl Castro's brother
26 Piece of a fern
29 Concealed
30 Objectives
34 ___ out; pealed
35 Youth
36 "___ Through the Tulips"; hit for Tiny Tim
37 Stomach muscles, for short
38 Betrayed to the enemy
40 Highest club
41 Spain's peninsula
43 Drag; tow
44 Pleased
45 Slightly more than a quart
46 Encountered
47 "Guys and ___"
48 Fragrant wood
50 Overalls part
51 "To Have and ___"; movie for Bogey & Bacall
54 Took a spill
58 Secondhand
59 Complete; total
61 Tempt; attract
62 Walkway
63 Rosary pieces
64 Merit; deserve
65 Conjunctions
66 Confidence
67 Red-brown hue
- DOWN
1 Stare



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/17/15

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

ACTOR	SCAM	NAPS
ROUTE	MANO	ABOUT
MINTS	IRON	ROLE
SLEEPERS	ACCUSE	
RINK	SCOOTED	
CHASTE	SPORT	
AUG	EMOTE	KILLS
SLOP	YARNS	COOL
SAGAS	RADIO	ONE
STEEL	GULPED	
MUSTARD	ONTO	
ENTIRE	MUSCATEL	
ADAM	CAAN	ADOBE
LUGE	TALC	SERBS
SEES	SALE	TRESS

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9/17/15

- 39 Umpire's cry
42 Moves back
44 Turkey
46 As a ___ of fact; actually
47 ___-witted; not too bright
49 Be skeptical
50 Explode
51 Maui dance
52 Strong ___ ox
53 Sell from a cart
54 Turner & others
55 Outdoor meal
56 Goofs
57 Fender
58 blemish
60 Fraternity letter

AP: Retailers and shippers gear up for holiday hiring

NEW YORK (AP) — The holidays are still months away, but retailers and shipping companies have begun announcing their hiring plans for the busy holiday season. Many companies temporarily boost their workforces during the holiday to deal with an increase in shoppers at stores and online. Many like to tout that a sizable share of people who work in these jobs wind up staying on as permanent employees.

Here's who's announced hiring plans so far:

RETAILERS
— Kohl's Corp.: The retailer expects to hire more than 69,000 workers, up from 67,000 in the 2014 holiday season. Most will work at the company's 1,200 stores around the country. About 9,500 will be placed at distribution and fulfillment centers to help website orders, and 660 will field calls at its credit card operations centers. Kohl's Corp., based in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, said most of the jobs will be filled by the middle of November.

— Toys R Us: The toy seller plans to hire 40,000 people to work at stores and distribution centers around the country. That's down from 45,000 last holiday season. Job interviews will begin in September and hiring will start in October and continue throughout the season. The Wayne, New Jersey, company has more than 860 stores in the U.S., including Babies R Us.

SHIPPERS
— FedEx Corp.: The company expects to hire more than 55,000 people to help ship and deliver packages. That's above the 50,000 workers the Memphis, Tennessee, company said it would hire last holiday season. □

For Rent Renaissance Suites

Private Island
from 11 Sept to 25 Sept 2015
ground floor walk to the pool and Beach
Down Town Price \$1000 each week, more information
call:(297-734-7777
ken@buyarubatimeshares.com

204091

Classifieds

TIMESHARE FOR SALE

Divi Phoenix

week 37 Studio
ocean view \$4,000

Divi Phoenix
week 38 Studio
ocean view \$4,000

Divi Golf & Beach Resort

week 11 1 bedroom, 2 bath
\$7,500

ritchey5652@comcast.net

204090

TIMESHARE FOR SALE/RENT

Divi Golf and Beach

week 40, oct. 3 start Eagle 3
ground floor unit 4106. 2 baths,
lock off master b/r, granite
kitchen, gated, elegant
furnishing, washer/ dryer, steps
to affinity pool and bar sleeps 4
sale \$4850

(equity value \$11500) rent \$925
email: rmwjmw@aol.com
508-651-0016

207000

Time Share Re/Sales Marriott Ocean Club

1 bedroom Ocean View Gold
Season (week 18-51)
price :\$8000

2 bedroom Ocean Front Gold
Season (week18-51)
price:\$20000

more information

call(297) 734-7777

ken@buyarubatimeshares.com

204091

Time Share Re/Sales Renaissance Suites

(Private Island)

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Study: Air pollution kills 3.3M worldwide, may double

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Air pollution is killing 3.3 million people a year worldwide, according to a new study that includes this surprise: Farming plays a large role in smog and soot deaths in industrial nations.

Scientists in Germany, Cyprus, Saudi Arabia and Harvard University calculated the most detailed estimates yet of the toll of air pollution, looking at what caused it. The study also projects that if trends don't change, the yearly death total will double to about 6.6 million a year by 2050.

The study, published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*, used health statistics and computer models. About three quarters of the deaths are from strokes and heart attacks, said lead author Jos Lelieveld at the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Germany. The findings are similar to other less detailed pollution death estimates, outside experts said.

"About 6 percent of all global deaths each occur prematurely due to expo-



In this Sept. 10, 2015 file photo, a man covers his nose during a hazy day in Singapore. Air pollution is killing 3.3 million people a year worldwide, according to a new study that includes this surprise: Farming plays a large role in smog and soot deaths in industrial nations.

Associated Press

sure to ambient air pollution. This number is higher than most experts would have expected, say, 10 years ago," said Jason West, a University of North Carolina environmental sciences professor who wasn't part of the study but praised it.

Air pollution kills more than

HIV and malaria combined, Lelieveld said.

With nearly 1.4 million deaths a year, China has the most air pollution fatalities, followed by India with 645,000 and Pakistan with 110,000.

The United States, with 54,905 deaths in 2010 from soot and smog, ranks seventh highest for air pollution deaths. What's unusual is that the study says that agriculture caused 16,221 of those deaths, second only to 16,929 deaths blamed on power plants.

In the U.S. Northeast, all of Europe, Russia, Japan and South Korea, agriculture is the No. 1 cause of the soot and smog deaths, accord-

ing to the study. Worldwide, agriculture is the No. 2 cause with 664,100 deaths, behind the more than 1 million deaths from in-home heating and cooking done with wood and other biofuels in developing world. The problem with farms is ammonia from fertilizer and animal waste, Lelieveld said.

That ammonia then combines with sulfates from coal-fired power plants and nitrates from car exhaust to form the soot particles that are the big air pollution killers, he said. In London, for example, the pollution from traffic takes time to be converted into soot, and then it is mixed with ammonia and

transported downwind to the next city, he said.

"We were very surprised, but in the end it makes sense," Lelieveld said. He said the scientists had assumed that traffic and power plants would be the biggest cause of deadly soot and smog.

Agricultural emissions are becoming increasingly important but are not regulated, said Allen Robinson, an engineering professor at Carnegie Mellon University, who wasn't part of the study but praised it.

Ammonia air pollution from farms can be reduced "at relatively low costs," Robinson said. "Maybe this will help bring more attention to the issue."

In the central United States, the main cause of soot and smog premature deaths is power plants; in much of the West, it's traffic emissions.

Jason West and other outside scientists did dispute the study's projections that deaths would double by 2050. That's based on no change in air pollution. West and others said it's likely that some places, such as China, will dramatically cut their air pollution by 2050.

And Lelieveld said that if the world reduces a different air pollutant — carbon dioxide, the main gas causing global warming — soot and smog levels will be reduced as well, in a "win-win situation in both directions." □


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With guest-filled tour, Swift's star power shines brighter

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — You could call Taylor Swift baby Oprah, and the stage is her version of Winfrey's couch. Easily the most important pop star of today, now Swift's star power has reached even greater heights and stretched outside of music, thanks to her uber successful, star-studded 1989 World Tour.

In typical Swift fashion, she has invited fellow radio-friendly singers to join her onstage, including Nick Jonas, Jason Derulo, John Legend and close gal pals Selena Gomez and Lorde. But Swift, 25, has also shared her stage with iconic folk singer Joan Baez and breakthrough acts like The Weeknd and Fetty Wap, who sang his hit "Trap Queen," a contemporary love song about cooking cocaine — among other things — with your lover. And then there were the tour's unorthodox moments: Ellen DeGeneres appeared onstage, Lisa Kudrow sang the memorable "Smelly Cat" from "Friends" at one show, and Kudrow's former co-star, Matt LeBlanc, hit the stage at a show with Chris Rock. Julia Roberts even walked the stage like a runway as Swift performed her hit "Style." The pop star also invited athletes to join in on the fun, from Kobe Bryant to Serena Williams to the U.S. women's soccer team, just days after they won the World Cup.

And the models she calls her friends, from Gigi Hadid and Karlie Kloss. "Interviewers always ask me how we 'get' these people to come to the shows to walk, and the truth is that everyone who has walked the catwalk at one of the shows was already there just to see the show. Usually I ask them in my pre-show meet and greet if they want to come out onstage, then I'll explain to them how the stage/elevator lift works and we just wing it," Swift said in an email to The Associated Press.

Many of her surprise guests have children who are die-



In this Friday, July 10, 2015, file photo, singer Taylor Swift performs during her "1989" world tour at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

hard Swifties.

"Joan Baez and Julia Roberts were both at my show in Santa Clara, and they were in my meet-and-greet room together. Julia is such a huge Joan fan and they were really hitting it off. I asked them if they wanted to walk out onstage together and Julia's kids exploded into 'PLEASE!!' So that's how that happened."

Other guests on the 1989 World Tour, which kicked off in Tokyo in May, have included Justin Timberlake, Alanis Morissette, Natalie Maines of the Dixie Chicks, Sam Hunt, Wiz Khalifa and Beck.

"A lot of stars you can see maybe not wanting to kind of share the spotlight and not wanting to necessarily have other people up there with her, but Taylor's thrilled to do that," said Josh Duboff, who interviewed Swift for the cover of Vanity Fair's September issue. "She's kind of excited to share the stage, which I think is kind of unique right now."

Mary J. Blige, who sang her songs "Family Affair" and "Doubt" at the Staples Center in Los Angeles with Swift, said the singer "was someone I always loved way before she invited me to her show."

"It's amazing. She deserves it. She's a giver. She's a real

sweetheart, big heart — so she's getting back everything that she is," the R&B diva said of Swift and her big-time tour guests. "People support her."

At the same show, Swift performed a duet with Emmy winner and "Orange Is the New Black" star Uzo Aduba, marking her second appearance on the singer's tour.

Girl group Fifth Harmony said Swift learned the choreography for their latest

hit, "Worth It," in 20 minutes backstage before they performed in front of 60,000 screaming fans in Santa Clara, California.

"I was actually crying while we were performing. I really was and like, I couldn't even sing my words correctly, especially when she came and stood right next to us," band member Dinah Jane Hansen said. "I mean, come on. It's Taylor Swift." Models also have been a part of the tour,

which wraps Dec. 12 in Melbourne, Australia. They include Heidi Klum, Kendall Jenner, Lily Donaldson and Andreja Pejic. And there are also Swift's close friends, like Lena Dunham and Hailee Steinfeld, who helped recreate her jam-packed "Bad Blood" music video at live shows alongside Kloss and Hadid.

"She's a big inspiration to me. She knows that. We started our friendship because she was a really big fan of my music before anyone else."

That's a really cool thing," said singer Ellie Goulding, who appears in the "Bad Blood" video. "I think she's an inspiration to a lot of other female artists." Goulding has yet to join Swift onstage on her latest tour, but she's ready: "That would be so much. Anything that involves a catwalk I would be into because I know I'll never do a real catwalk."

Swift has been a longtime supporter of her musical peers, and the Swift approval could help launch or boost a career. Ed Sheeran's star power rose after Swift declared she loved his music on social media, introducing him to her feverish fan base. □

Associated Press

Lionel Richie to launch Las Vegas residency next year

ALICIA RANCILIO

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Lionel Richie is ready to go all night long in Las Vegas.

The singer announced Wednesday that he will launch a residency called "Lionel Richie — All the Hits" on April 27 at The AXIS at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino.

Richie will play 20 shows in April, May, September and October. Tickets, which go on sale Friday, range from \$59 to \$199, not including service charges.

Richie says he decided to launch a Vegas residency after speaking to his 21-year-old son, Miles.

"I asked him, 'So Miles,



In this Sunday, June 28, 2015, file photo, Lionel Richie performs on the Pyramid stage at Glastonbury music festival on Worthy Farm, Glastonbury, England.

Associated Press

what do you think about Vegas? Should I do it?' He goes, 'Oh my God, dad. We are going to have the

great time. WE are going to have the greatest time," Richie said in an interview Wednesday. □

Audiobooks get some starry help from Broadway and Hollywood

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Actress Vanessa Johansson recently found herself in the middle of a steamy interracial romance, one complicated by a gunshot and a looming lawsuit. It was also purely fictional.

Johansson, older sister of Scarlett, was sitting in a comfy recording studio, narrating Sandra Kitt's novel "Close Encounters" for Audible Inc., the industry leader in audiobooks.

In one of six darkened recording spaces at Audible's sleek and inviting Newark, New Jersey, headquarters, the actress read from a glowing iPad, silently swiping pages as she moved through the book. Across a partition, her director, Ian Hackney, kept an eye on accuracy and a



In this July 20, 2015, file photo, actor Jake Gyllenhaal attends the premiere of "Southpaw" in New York.

Associated Press

passage again. Audiobooks — for so long dismissed as the things on CD you hope keep the kids quiet during long car trips — are all grown up, and lately the balance of power has shifted from the

ing comfortable handling large chunks of text, flexibility in approach, stamina and an ability to give life to characters.

"I think there's a level of interpretive experience that a great actor or a great director-producer can bring to this that causes the greatest scripts arguably of all time — like a great novel — to then be refracted through a brilliant performance," said Donald Katz, founder and CEO of Audible, owned by Amazon. He calls what he does "theater for your ears."

Vanessa Johansson has had such a good time in the booth that she recently recruited her younger sister to narrate Lewis Carroll's playful "Alice in Wonderland" for Audible, due out in February.

This time, she was in the director's chair and Scarlett Johansson voiced the likes of Alice, The White Rabbit, The Cheshire Cat and The Mad Hatter.

"Obviously we know each other very well and we've been doing silly voices with each other since we were little kids," said Vanessa. "It didn't take any convincing, really."

The increase in celebrity interest is mirrored by soaring profits.

The Audio Publishers Association estimates that audiobook sales in 2014 totaled more than \$1.47 billion, up 13.5 percent over 2013, a bump attributed to easier digital downloads and higher quality.

The number of audiobooks

published last year was 25,787, more than four times the 6,200 titles in 2010. According to the independent Edison Research firm, some 55 million people listened to an audiobook in the last year.

"To millions of people, it's their preferred way of experiencing literature," said Katz. "And it has this massive utility in a busy time because you can't use your eyes to read or look at a screen or watch a play if you're in a car or on a Stair-Master."

Vanessa Johansson, an actress and artistic associate with the Scandinavian American Theater Company, said narrating audiobooks has been a way to practice her skills while earning a reliable paycheck.

"It's one of the best things that's happened to my career," said Johansson. "To be a working actor, you really need to have a lot of pots simmering at the same time. I see audiobooks as on that same stovetop."

Other celebrity readers

Family Corleone," a prequel to Mario Puzo's "The Godfather."

"I'm pretty fast at it. It's another form of acting. It's like doing a radio play," said Cannavale. "And I can take smoke breaks. I can wear a hat."

For actor Kevin Weeks, narrating is "the closest thing to a day job I've ever had." He reads everything from Westerns to juvenile fiction, a book about the Pentagon Papers and one about mushroom foragers in the Pacific Northwest.

"We're paying attention to story and plot. A lot of things that actors do when we're working on new things onstage, we're doing to make things work on the page," he said. "We're tying up loose ends and we're adding inflections to things so you can hear what's happening."

Johansson prepares for each reading like a stage role.

She reads the book with attention to how the story flows and adds texture to the voices. She looks for



In this June 16, 2015, file photo, Nicole Kidman arrives at the Women in Film 2015 Crystal And Lucy Awards in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

consistent tone during their six-hour sessions. Johansson changed voices for each character — some more sensuous, some flecked with wonder.

She read from page 374: "He was busy consoling himself over losing Carol for this second time. But he was pragmatic. It was Carol who had changed much more than he had in the past few years ..."

Just then, Johansson was gently stopped by Hackney, who had heard a slight hitch. "Let's take that sentence one more time," he said. Johansson paused and then dived into the

author to the presentation. Just as the technology has gotten a digital upgrade, the bland narrators of the past have been replaced by theater pros like Alan Cumming ("The Poetry of Scotland"), Jim Norton ("Dubliners") and Michael C. Hall ("Breakfast at Tiffany's") and A-list actors like Nicole Kidman ("To the Lighthouse"), Jake Gyllenhaal ("The Great Gatsby"), Matthew McConaughey ("White Man's Problems") and Reese Witherspoon ("Go Set a Watchman"). Seasoned actors bring an assortment of voices into the booth, a history of be-



In this April 13, 2015, file photo, Scarlett Johansson arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of "Avengers: Age Of Ultron."

Associated Press

include Damian Lewis, Diane Keaton, Claire Danes, Anne Hathaway, Samuel L. Jackson, Kate Winslet, Kim Basinger and Jennifer Connelly.

Stage and TV star Bobby Cannavale, who read all seven Harry Potter novels aloud to his son, recently narrated "Lush Life" by Richard Price and "The

clues in the text about her approach and even sends an email to authors to ask if they have any particular requests.

"When you're reading, you cannot hesitate. You really need to be just in the moment," she said. "It really makes you free up because if you're hesitating, you're not reading." □

'Everest' actors had to discover their inner mountaineers

SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jason Clarke was already an avid outdoorsman when he signed on to play the lead role in "Everest." He'd visited most of the national parks in North America and trekked through Chile and Argentina. He knew his way around an ice-ax and crampons. He even backpacked to Everest base camp — a staggering 17,600 feet above sea level — a few years back just for fun.

But just like his less-outdoorsy colleagues, Clarke had to physically prepare for the challenges of working at extreme elevation to make the epic drama.

"I loved it," he beamed. "I loved every single second of it."

Clarke leads the ensemble cast of "Everest," opening Friday, which tells the story of the doomed 1996 expedition that claimed the lives of eight climbers — the deadliest day on the mountain at the time. To scale the planet's highest peak on screen, the actors — Clarke, Josh Brolin, Jake Gyllenhaal, John Hawkes and Michael Kelly — had to train like real mountaineers. Director Baltasar Kormakur insisted on authenticity, so he brought his cast and crew to Nepal, where they filmed at an altitude of 16,000 feet. (The highest ski resorts in the U.S. top out around 13,000 feet. Most are less than 10,000 feet tall.)



In this Friday, Aug. 28, 2015 photo, actors Michael Kelly, from left, Jake Gyllenhaal, Jason Clarke, Josh Brolin, and John Hawkes, from the film "Everest," pose for a portrait in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

High altitude has an undeniable effect on human function. With less available oxygen, the mind slows and the body weakens. Even expert climbers can get altitude sickness, characterized by headache, nausea, dizziness and exhaustion.

Where climbers experience gradual elevation gain during their ascent that helps them acclimatize to the thinner air, the "Everest" cast and crew were flown in. Advance preparation was essential, and still sometimes insufficient.

"We were dropped off in helicopters at the end because it was too hard to walk up there and then shoot a scene," Kormakur said. "At that point, I just

saw the crew start falling apart. People got sick. We had to evacuate them."

Other snowy sequences were filmed in the Italian alps at around 12,000 feet — still high enough to cause the aches and foggy thought associated with being at high altitude.

To work up there, the actors had to become hikers months before production began — which suited Clarke and Brolin just fine. Brolin was already a rock climber, and he used the film as an excuse to up his outdoor game. He spent seven months training, climbing on Switzerland's famous Eiger and summiting California's Mts. Shasta and Whitney.

"This is selfish to me," he

said. "I got to do all the things I love to do and I got to do it in an extreme fashion that I probably wouldn't have if I didn't have the excuse of doing a movie."

Brolin plays Beck Weathers, who miraculously survived the fated 1996 Everest expedition, despite spending 18 hours stranded on the mountain, weathering its extreme conditions. He lost his hands and nose to frostbite. His book, "Left for Dead: My Journey Home From Everest," served as an inspiration for the film.

Actors Hawkes and Kelly, who wouldn't consider themselves mountaineers, each hiked to ready for their roles. Still, they felt the wearying effects of working at high elevation.

"There was a part of you going, 'I'm light-headed, I'm not thinking clearly,'" Hawkes said, "but it also affords you a chance to really not act and just be in the moment, which is a great gift for actors."

Ironically, the cast said the most physically challenging aspect of making "Everest" happened on a London soundstage.

That's where Kormakur captured his close-ups: a turbine engine pelting the actors with bits of plastic, paper and salt to mimic a snowstorm. Brolin joked that the resulting exfoliation was great for his complexion.

Despite the forced skin treatment and struggles with elevation, the awesomeness of seeing Everest is something the cast won't soon forget.

"It just made me feel like I wanted to get rid of everything," Hawkes said. "It takes so little to live and to be happy."

Kelly found hiking there "incredibly grounding."

"I'll walk this trail and someone's going to walk this trail 100 years from now. And then 200 years from now," he said. "And people walked it hundreds of years before me. That's pretty cool."

For Clarke, already intimate with nature's majesty, being on THE mountain was deeply moving. He talked its top helicopter pilot into flying him up as high as they could go (around 23,000 feet). □

Caitlyn Jenner files to legally change name and gender

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Caitlyn Jenner has filed paperwork to make her name and gender transition official, but she has requested privacy accommodations citing threats she has received.

The Olympic gold medalist who was born as Bruce Jenner filed a name and gender-change petition on

Tuesday in Los Angeles. She is seeking a private hearing to officially change her name to Caitlyn Marie Jenner and gender to female. Jenner, 65, is seeking the change "to better match my identity," the filing states.

It was released Wednesday so a judge could consider Jenner's request to file portions of the application under seal.

Some details in the released petition were redacted after Jenner's attorneys sought to keep certain personal details private, citing concerns about threats made against her.

"Although public support for my transition has been overwhelmingly supportive, I am also receiving unwelcome negative attention from private citizens, including threats of bodily



In a Wednesday, July 15, 2015 file photo, Caitlyn Jenner accepts the Arthur Ashe award for courage at the ESPY Awards at the Microsoft Theater, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

harm," Jenner wrote in a sworn declaration. She signed the document

using her birth name, William Bruce Jenner, last week. □



In this Oct. 29, 1962, file photo, President John F. Kennedy poses in the White House office with Gen. David Shoup, left, Marine Corps Commandant, and Adm. George Anderson, Chief of U.S. Naval Operations in Washington. The chiefs met with the president to review the situation in Cuba and operation of the U.S. naval blockade. As the U.S. and Russia reached the brink of nuclear war in 1962, Kennedy received top-secret intelligence from the CIA that a new warhead launcher was spotted in Cuba. That report, given to Kennedy a day before the end of the Cuban Missile Crisis, is among roughly 19,000 pages of newly declassified CIA documents from the Cold War released Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015.

(AP Photo/William J. Smith)

CIA declassifies trove of Cold War-era intelligence memos

PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — As the U.S. and Russia reached the brink of nuclear war in 1962, President John F. Kennedy received top-secret intelligence from the CIA that a new warhead launcher was spotted in Cuba.

Amid those grave concerns, the memo ends on a different note. A U.S. agent in Moscow describes "packed houses and enthusiastic applause" during a run of Russian performances by the New York City Ballet.

That report, given to Kennedy a day before the end of the Cuban Missile Crisis, is among roughly 19,000 pages of newly declassified CIA documents from the Cold War released Wednesday. Stamped "For

the President's Eyes Only" on some pages, the dossiers were delivered daily by the spy agency to the White House. Known as the President's Daily Brief—President Barack Obama is the first to swipe through his on a tablet—they are tightly guarded rundowns of CIA intelligence from around the globe. For the first time, some of the oldest briefs being made public, starting with those written in the 1960s for presidents Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. Conspiracy theorists mining for signs of nefarious CIA plots are likely to be disappointed. Many of the briefs remain partially blacked out, and what isn't won't rewrite textbooks. Instead, historians say, the memos reveal the real-time intelligence that shaped pivotal decisions made in

the Oval Office after the Bay of Pigs and through Vietnam. "These are an incomparable window into how a president thinks," said William Inboden, who worked under President George W. Bush and now leads the Clements Center for National Security at the University of Texas at Austin. "When we're reading these, it's a mirror image of what the president's concerns were."

On Nov. 22, 1963, Kennedy awoke in a Fort Worth, Texas, hotel to an intelligence memo that concluded that a Soviet anti-missile paraded in Moscow appeared only designed for use in the atmosphere. In Japan, meanwhile, an election didn't change the balance of power. At least one page in the briefing remains classified.

Later that day, after Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, the CIA published a second brief. It contained no intelligence but a poem Kennedy was fond of reciting. "Bullfight critics ranked in rows/Crowd the enormous plaza full/But only one is there who knows/And he's the man who fights the bull."

Even for Johnson, who as vice president was famously kept out of Kennedy's inner circle, the CIA briefs would have been an unfamiliar sight until being abruptly elevated to commander in chief, said Mark Updegrove, director of the LBJ Presidential Library in Austin. The briefs in the days following Kennedy's death also say almost nothing about the assassination, except for a how it apparently "acted as a catalyst"

in ending a political stalemate in Italy.

As Johnson settled into office, the briefs became heavy with intelligence from Vietnam, and by the fall of 1967, a section titled "Special Daily Report on North Vietnam" was added. Inboden said the CIA reports appear to show Johnson becoming so concerned with eroding public support that he sought updates on what Hanoi thought of war protesters back in the U.S.

The release of the briefs was paved by a 2009 executive order from Obama stating that all classified material will automatically undergo a declassification review and release after 25 years. The full collection of briefs from the Kennedy and Johnson era are posted on the CIA's website. □